Cabinet seeks ₱780-B national budget for 2002

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2001 ★ 50 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 227 ₱15

Real soap: Mom finds missing baby

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S the stuff soap operas are made of. But this one was for real.

A 30-year-old widow was reunited with her 2-year-old son eight months after he was kidnapped from their house in Quezon City.

The agonizing search of Florida Santos, a

REAL/ A14

Erap on Sona: Politics, not policy

"SHE DID not give us . . . policy but politics," detained ex-President Joseph Estrada commented on the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of his successor, President Macapagal-

ERAP/ A15

ROMY HOMILLADA

DEADLY SERENITY

Worst-case scenario, warns geologist Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo on Tuesday is that due to the heavy rainfall, the crater of Mt. Pinatubo (at left) could overflow with 300 million cubic meters of lahar and endanger the 46,000 residents in Botolan, Zambales. *(Story on Page A3.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria: I know my arithmetic

By Juliet L. Javellana

"I KNOW my arithmetic," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said, defending her program to create a million jobs and to provide education, housing and food to Filipinos from criticisms that the government could not finance it.

The President said all the programs that she outlined in her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) were assured of funding.

"Everything. I am an economist. I do my arithmetic before I speak," she said in an interview aired over dzBB.

"To those who are asking where I would get the money, I am ready to enumerate the sources. For ex-

GLORIA/ A14

Peso, stocks tumble

Indonesia stole thunder from RP, say analysts

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address was good, but the change of power in Indonesia excited foreign investors more.

This was the explanation of some brokers as to why local stocks and the peso continued their slump on Tuesday, a day after the President's upbeat speech.

The Philippine Stock Exchange main index yesterday shed another 5.81 points, slipping past the crucial 1,370 support level to close at a nine-month low of 1,369.02.

The peso likewise edged down to 53.55 against the US dollar, down from 53.40 on Monday, pressured by lingering domestic concerns and the weakness of regional currencies.

Enrique Sta. Ana, sales director of the foreign brokerage house Vickers Ballas Securities, explained it was "simply a case of bad timing."

"The Sona was well received . . . But we were already near the support level, volume was low, and there was a positive development in Indonesia," Sta. Ana said.

The ouster of Abdurrahman Wahid and the rise of Megawati Sukarnoputri diverted the attention of foreign investors from Ms Macapagal's speech to the change of power in Indonesia.

"Foreign funds were shifted from the Philippines to Indonesia . . . which has a bigger market capitalization," Sta. Ana said.

According to him, foreign money was also shifted from elsewhere in the region to the Philippines in January when Edsa People Power II toppled President Joseph Estrada and Ms Macapagal took over.

Value turnover at the local exchange remained at a low of P451 million. Analysts also noted for-

PESO/ A14

STATE of the Gloria-Mike Arroyo union: Wife wants him investigated but at the same time comes to his defense. VAL HANDUMON

Opposition trains guns on Mike A

By Martin P. Marfil, Armand N. Nocum and Delfin T. Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

OPPOSITION senators are hot on the trail of allegations that Mr. Mike Arroyo pocketed a P50-million bribe in a telecommunications franchise deal.

So is President Macapagal-Arroyo. She wants the charges against her husband investigated. She said it was "okay" for the Senate to investigate as it was within their power to do so.

But Ms Macapagal also rushed to her husband's defense. In a radio interview yesterday, she said that her husband never lobbied to recall the franchise bill which she had vetoed.

In a press briefing, Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said they will subpoena Mr. Arroyo on the bribery charge brought by Ma. Victoria "Bing" Rodrigo, former correspondence secretary to Presi-

OPPOSITION/ A15

Wahid refuses to leave Palace

SIGN of change: On President Megawati's first full day in office, her portrait goes up the wall of a government office in Indonesia; down comes Wahid's. AP

JAKARTA—Seizing the reins of power once held by her father, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri began her first full day in office Tuesday. But the presidential palace is still occupied by Abdurrahman Wahid, the ousted leader who's refusing to leave.

Major Indonesian cities, including the capital of Jakarta, were calm Tuesday and the national currency continued to rise on news of the change in leadership in the world's fourth most populous country.

"We have high hopes for Megawati," said Sugeng Sugito, a 42-year-old bus conductor. "She does not have much experience but we hope she will be good."

The legislature on Monday voted unanimously to sack Wahid and elect Megawati, the 54-year-old daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno.

Wahid had repeatedly warned that his ouster would trigger violent protests and the immediate secession of six restive provinces, but that has not happened.

Nor has there been any major public jubilation for Megawati, who served as Wahid's vice president and is considered Indonesia's most popular politician because of her party's first place showing in the

WAHID/ A5

Gloria congratulates new Indon president

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday joined world leaders in congratulating new Indonesian leader Megawati Sukarnoputri and expressed confidence in her capability to lead her country out of a severe economic and political crisis.

Aides said Ms Macapagal interrupted an early afternoon Cabinet meeting to hold a five-minute chat with Megawati over a mobile telephone.

"I firmly believe that under your able guidance, Indonesia's success in surmounting the economic and political challenges ahead will be

GLORIA/ A5

SHAKY SENATE

'One vote and you're out'

By Armand N. Nocum and Rocky Nazareno

THE ADMINISTRATION'S People Power Coalition (PPC) is wooing minority senators with offers of chairmanship of committees to strengthen its hold of the chamber.

"We have to attract support from the minority," said independent Sen. John Osmeña, one of those who provided the "swing vote" that enabled Franklin Drilon to win the Senate presidency.

Osmeña admitted that the administration bloc was walking on shaky ground with its slim majority of 13 in the 24-member chamber.

"We are living from day to day. One vote and you're out," he said of the possibility of a coup from the 11-member minority bloc.

Drilon won by just one vote, delivered by Noli de Castro, an independent candidate and topnotcher of the May 14 senatorial election. In contrast, Jose de Venecia, secretary general of the ruling Lakas, won the House speakership with 184 votes compared with his rival's 17.

Osmeña considers 18 votes a "comfortable level" of support for Drilon.

"We continue to exert efforts to strengthen and solidify our majority," Drilon said.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto said some of his colleagues were considering accepting the committees from the majority bloc. But he said "we don't accept crumbs."

Administration senators held a caucus yesterday and began apportioning the 37 committees in the Senate.

They agreed to give Sen. Juan Flavier the health committee; Sen. Renato Cayetano, education; Sen. Francis Pangilinan, justice; Sen. Ralph Recto, ways and means; Ramon Revilla, public works; and Sen. Manuel Villar, banking and agriculture.

ONE/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

OK YAN, PARA MATULOY ANG PANGAKO!

Cabinet seeks ₱780-B budget

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE MACAPAGAL Cabinet yesterday finalized a proposal for a P780.8 billion national budget for next year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, in a statement, said the proposed budget, dubbed the "anti-poverty budget," for next year would be the "main instrument the President will wield in realizing the development targets in her State of the Nation Address" on Monday.

She said the P780.8 billion budget was a "realistic estimate of resources and the desired macro-economic environment for next year."

Boncodin said the budget proposal reflects continued support for the poverty-reduction and other priority programs of Ms Macapagal. The anti-poverty budget focuses on the promotion of free enterprise, the creation of more jobs, enhancement of skills and promotion of investments and infrastructure.

She said the proposed 2002 budget also puts the "social bias for the intensified programs on housing, urban services and micro-credit."

Boncodin released the budget proposal at the end of the first Cabinet meeting yesterday after the Sona. The President was unable to submit the budget message to the 12th Congress during its opening on Monday.

Boncodin said the proposed 2002 general appropriations would be 11.6 percent higher than the 2001 budget of P699.9 billion.

Budget deficit

Boncodin said the budget supports the 3.3 percent growth target in Gross Domestic Product, scaled down from 4.3 percent; an inflation rate of 5 to 6 percent from 6 to 7 percent this year; and interest rates between 10 to 11 percent from 11 to 12 percent this year.

She said the target budget deficit for next year is P130 billion or 10 percent lower than the P145 billion expected budget deficit this year.

She said that lowering the budget deficit was in line with Ms Macapagal's aim to achieve a balanced budget by 2006.

"It also projects a realistic revenue target of P624.3 billion which already factors the scaled down revenue target this year," the Department of Budget and Management said in a statement.

In determining the budget allocation, Boncodin said the DBM adopted a "priority test" to check whether the project proposals of various departments and agencies are critical to the anti-poverty and other priority programs of the administration.

Mandatory items

"This was necessary given that the entire increase in the budget was eaten up by mandatory items such as the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) to local government units, net lending and personal services and interest payments," she said.

She said this new classification was very different from the method used by previous administrations which was based on the "function of expenditure by agency."

She said the budget allocations were grouped as follows: survival, P46 billion or 5.9 percent of the total budget; social protection and security, P84 billion or 10.8 percent; empowerment and social equity, P215.8 billion or 27.6 percent; national security, P48.2 billion or 6.2 percent; general supervision and oversight, P39.2 billion or 5 percent; sharing of revenues to LGUs, P137.1 billion or 17.6 percent; interest payments and related expenses, P210.4 billion or 26.9 percent.

Education

By departments, the top 10 which will get the biggest allocation in next year's budget are: education, P102.8 billion; defense, P69.8; interior, P44.5 billion; public works, P42.9 billion; agriculture, including the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, P18.3 billion; transportation, P13.3 billion; health, P11.8 billion; judiciary, P7.6 billion; environment, P6.8 billion; and finance, P6.5 billion.

She said the other programs with substantial funding are the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with P10.2 billion, including P4.6 billion for land acquisition; infrastructure with P49.7 billion; the AFP modernization program with P10 billion and P6.4 billion for the PNP salary upgrading and retirement benefits.

Boncodin echoed the President's assurances that the goals she spelled out in her Sona would have the necessary funding.

'Doable'

"We triple-checked that these projects are doable because they have funds, if not in the 2001 budget, then in the 2002 proposed budget," she said.

She said that not all projects the President identified would come from the national budget.

She cited the P20 billion housing budget which would come from the Pag-ibig, SSS and GSIS.

"The strengthening of moral standards in governance and society which is another major national agenda under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration mandates support for programs on justice and law enforcement, national security and anti-corruption," she said.

MACAPAGAL: "Anti-poverty budget"

Malacañang will submit the proposed budget to Congress for approval.

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BEWARE OF FAKE SUPPLIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS!

Jason, Jomar, Erwin: New faces of poverty

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT'S a dream come true for Jason, Jomar and Erwin—the new faces of poverty in the country.

Stung by criticism that presenting the three Payatas children during her first State of the Nation Address was like something out of show business, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that the children were for real and that she meant to help them fulfill their dreams.

"The child who wants land, his family will get it. The child who wants a job for his father, his family will get it. The child who wants to go to college, he will get it," the President said in an interview with Tina Monzon-Palma on the "Talk Back" ANC program on Monday night.

In her address at the opening of Congress, the President related how Jomar Pabalan, Jason Vann Banogan and Erwin Dolera had written down their wishes and placed them inside paper boats which they floated down the Pasig River.

Pabalan, 10, wished for his father to get a permanent job; Banogan, 10, wanted to go to college; and Dolera, 8, wished for the closing down of the Payatas dumpsite and for his family to obtain land.

The President explained that the three boys' letters had reached her not via the Pasig as they were meant to do.

"They really wrote the letters and made the paper boats which they let sail on the Pasig River in the hope that they would reach Malacañang. But they did not. I just read (about the letters) in the newspapers. And then I looked for the three kids," she said.

The President said it was Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao who analyzed the letters of the Payatas kids.

"Didn't you notice? Their wishes are the very programs you have?" Tiglao told her.

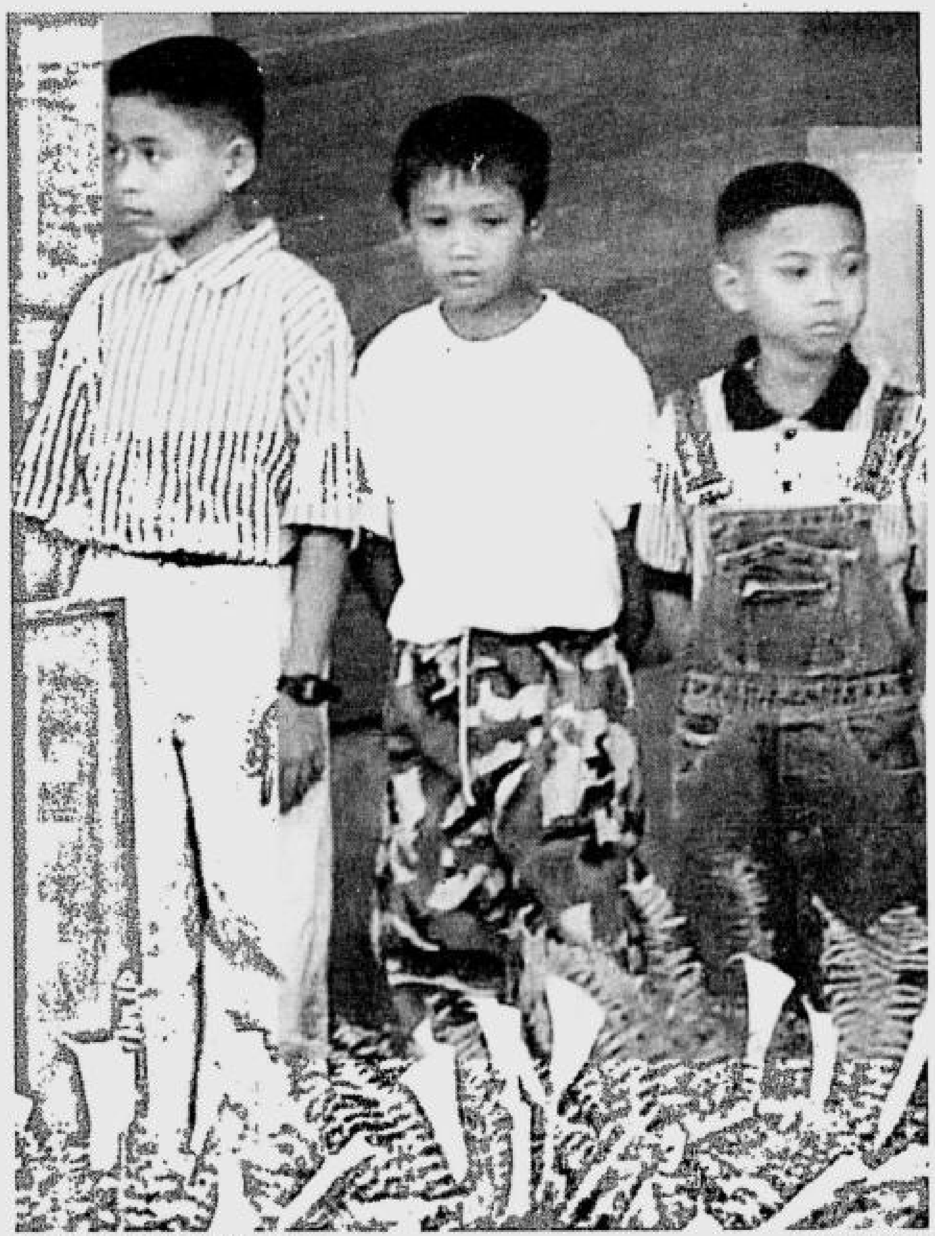
Thus, the three kids symbolize the need for jobs, education, housing and food which she vowed to help fulfill during her watch, Ms Macapagal said.

The President said she found out that the three were part of a group of 30 children and their families who were being cared for by a non-government organization.

"All of them are going to be supported by our government program because we have a program of uplift in the slum areas," she said.

But the government's scarce resources will not be enough to help all those in need. Uplifting the lives of the poor who comprise 40 percent of the population will require an overall improvement in the economy, she said.

"They (three kids) will (get their wish). But as I said, we will fight poverty within a decade. So, we are not going to solve all these problems in 2.5 years, but we must start," she said.


PAYATAS kids in Congress.

JOAN BONDOC

Iglesia to mark 87th year sans fanfare

THE IGLESIA ni Cristo will celebrate its 87th year anniversary on July 27 by holding special thanksgiving services in all its congregations around the world and by launching an intensive evangelism campaign.

Because of the present economic condition of the country, there will be no grand musical and cultural programs at the Church's Central Office complex.

Instead, INC members will celebrate the occasion by distributing religious pamphlets to non-members and by inviting everyone to attend the expositions of Biblical doctrines that will be held in all congregations around the world, according to INC spokesperson Bienvenido C. Santiago.

Through a circular read in worship services Sunday, INC executive minister Erano G. Manalo enjoined all members to participate in sharing their faith to others.

Citing Matthew 5:14-16, he said to the brethren: "We should not hide our good works, just as we should not light a lamp and put it under a basket but in a place where it can give light, so that more people may glorify the Father in heaven."

A week earlier, on July 14, the INC Executive Minister also officiated the dedication service inaugurating the new house of worship of the locale of Pag-asa along Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. The 800-seater edifice stands at a 2,000 sq. m. lot and has a total cost of over P50 million.

The Iglesia ni Cristo was established in 1914 under the stewardship of the late Brother Felix Y. Manalo at Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila. Over the years, it has succeeded in establishing congregations in different parts of the globe especially in the United States of America, Canada, Europe, Australia and even Africa.

The INC has established congregations in more than 75 countries.

Transport chief linked to Naia 3 sub-contractor

By TJ Burgonio

WHY is Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez fiercely defending the contract awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc (Piatco) to build and operate the $500-million Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal3?

Alvarez and his wife Emelita A. Alvarez had a stake in a private developer, Wintrack Builders Inc., which was awarded a sub-contract to do site development, including excavation works, at the Naia 3 toward the end of 1999, sources said.

He himself admitted that they owned 30 percent of Wintrack but he said he divested himself of their shareholdings when he was appointed secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications by newly installed President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I'm not denying that I had shares in the company. But when I was appointed secretary, I divested of my shares and sold these to our partners. The law prohibits us to have any interest (in any project), direct or indirect, so I had to sell my shares," he said in an interview over dzBB.

Alvarez said he saw no conflict of interest because he and his wife had sold their shares.

Sources said that the Japanese firm, Takenaka Corp., had awarded Wintrack the sub-contract to do site development at the terminal at the end of 1999. Takenaka, on the other hand, was earlier contracted by Piatco to construct the terminal.

Alvarez, who was assistant Naia manager from 1994 to 1995, himself confirmed this, saying that it was not Piatco but Takenaka that awarded the sub-contract to Wintrack. He denied he was part of the public bidding and award committee that awarded the contract to Piatco.

Up to this time, Wintrack is still doing some works at the construction site inside Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. This was confirmed by Shinji Futo, construction manager of Takenaka's building department.

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Puwersa says Comelec verdict on Recto illegal

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE OPPOSITION Puwersa ng Masa yesterday said the National Board of Canvassers resolution declaring Senators Ralph Recto and Gregorio Honasan as the final 12th and 13th placers, respectively, in the senatorial elections was illegal as it was not approved by a majority.

Only three members of the seven-member Commission on Elections en banc—chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioners Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason, all appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo—had passed the resolution, which was penned by Borra.

Two commissioners, Luzviminda Tancangco and Rufino Javier, dissented while two other commissioners, Mehol Sadain and Ralph Lantion, were absent.

"I dissented because it was hurriedly done," said Tancangco. "We did not have the time to check the figures."

NBO Resolution No. 01-006 and the canvass report were actually received by the Senate secretary at around 8:43 a.m. yesterday.

The canvass report showed Recto in 12th place with 10,498,940 votes and Honasan in 13th place with 10,454,527, or a difference of only 44,413.

As 12th placer, Recto will serve a full six-year term while Honasan will serve out the three remaining years of Vice President Teofisto Guingona's unfinished term.

PnM counsel Rufus Rodriguez yesterday said the resolution was void and illegal as it had not been approved by a majority of Comelec members as contained in the Comelec's Rules of Procedure and Article XI Section 7 of the Constitution.

"The Comelec rules of procedure and the constitutional provision on constitutional commissions are clear that any resolution or ruling should be made by a majority of the members and not merely by a majority of those present," Rodriguez said.

The resolution approved last Friday denied four petitions filed by Rodriguez contesting 150,000 votes for Recto in 20 towns in Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces, and another one seeking the correction of Recto's total in Zamboanga del Norte which included 30,000 padded votes earlier ordered deducted by the NBOC.

Rodriguez said he would file a motion to recall the resolution.

Until the Comelec en banc issues a proper resolution duly approved by the majority, the 13 new senators cannot perform their functions because their proclamation would be based on an illegal resolution, he said.

Tancangco said she was requesting for the breakdown of the votes by provinces to verify the claims made by Rodriguez.

Tancangco also questioned the grounds given for dismissing the Rodriguez petitions. The resolution merely stated that the NBOC had lost jurisdiction over the case as it had already proclaimed the 13 senators on June 4.

Tancangco said the senatorial tally as of June 4, which became the basis for the proclamation, was supposed to have been approved in NBOC Resolution 01-005 without prejudice to the filing of the petitions.

Tancangco said she did not sign the resolution in protest against the alleged irregularities in the canvassing.

SSS exec won't quit

SOCIAL Security System executive vice president Horacio T. Templo has defied the order of the president of the state-run private workers pension fund for him to resign.

Templo yesterday told SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II that he would not leave because of the "clamor" from SSS employees and officials for him to stay on, a press statement from Templo said.

In a letter to Nañagas, Templo also said that he was backing out of a commitment he made to the SSS chief last Friday that he would resign yesterday because this would not calm the unrest at the SSS anyway.

Templo is the highest-ranking SSS career official and the latest to join the ranks of SSS employees and officials demanding that Nañagas resign.

Zambales town threatened by lahar

By Christian V. Esguerra

MASSIVE lahar flow from Mt. Pinatubo could sweep through Botolan town in Zambales this November which could endanger the lives of around 46,000 residents, the UK-based Oxfam aid organization warned yesterday.

In a worst-case scenario, 300 million cubic meters of lahar could flow out of Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake and kill many people similar to what happened in Mindanao's Mt. Parker in 1995, Oxfam geologist Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo said at a press conference yesterday.

"The situation is serious. It's very real. We don't have much time," he warned.

In 1995, the crater of Mt. Parker in South Cotabato collapsed, releasing some 30 million cubic meters of water which killed at least 80 people.

Botolan residents, Rodolfo warned, would have only several minutes to prepare once the projected massive lahar flow from Mt. Pinatubo in November reaches the Baquilan river.

The river runs through Botolan and is connected with the Balin Baquero and Maraunot rivers that flow from Mt. Pinatubo.

Rodolfo said the government and the town's residents should prepare for a possible massive lahar flow as he noted the steep rise of water in Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake.

He and another geologist, Rosalito Alonso, conducted a study early this year on the rising lake water.

Over the past 10 years since the volcano's 1991 eruption, Mt. Pinatubo has collected in its crater lake rain water that has risen 10 meters every year, Rodolfo said.

Last May 26, the height of the Maraunot notch above the crater lake was measured at 8.3 meters.

A month later, the height of the notch, or "freeboard," dropped to 6.3 meters, Rodolfo said in a report quoting geologists from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

If the freeboard continues to be reduced at this rate, water could flow out of Mt. Pinatubo's crater by November, Rodolfo said.

Early this year, a team of scientists from the University of Washington observed that the notch was made up of "poorly consolidated" materials.

During an overflow, these materials could mix with the lake water and develop into lahar, Rodolfo said.

"The lake level is rising and the Maraunot notch will eventually be breached. Given these certainties, the lack of information (among residents) is in itself sufficient cause for alarm," Rodolfo said.

Oxfam has asked authorities to establish a warning and evacuation system in Zambales.

Large markers should be placed at Mt. Pinatubo to enable authorities to monitor the rise of the lake water without having to go to the volcano's crater.

The group also urged the government to closely monitor typhoons and monsoons.

The largest lahar flow in the country was registered at 112 million cubic meters in Zambales' Bucao river at the height of typhoon "Kadiang" in 1993, Rodolfo said in his report.

The lahar flowed at the rate of 25 km per hour.

Sandigan asked to call top bankers on Velarde accounts

By Donna S. Cueto

THE OMBUDSMAN and the special prosecutor yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to summon the presidents or representatives of six banks holding accounts related to the controversial "Jose Velarde" account, allegedly belonging to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

In an urgent request, the prosecution asked the court's 3rd division to issue a "subpoena duces tecum" (a writ to produce documents) to Global Bank, Bank of Commerce, Far East Bank and Trust Co., Allied Bank Metrobank and Equitable PCIBank.

These banks' officials or representatives will be compelled to provide the court with the documents related to the Jose Velarde accounts.

They have been requested to appear on Aug. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, and bring the original and certified copies of the accounts, suspected to be linked to the Velarde accounts, under the names of Estrada cronies Manuel Pangilinan, Kelvin Garcia, Ramon Lee, Mark Jimenez and Lucio Co.

Pangilinan allegedly contributed P20 million to the Velarde account. His account number at the Global Bank, the former Asian Bank, was listed as 009-101-00166-3.

In the Bank of Commerce branch at Port Area, Manila, the unnamed contributor to the Velarde account gave P6.3 million from an account with the number 00-0154-31839-9, the prosecution said.

The Far East Bank Cubao-Araneta Center branch also had an unnamed contributor to the Velarde account, who gave P3 million, allegedly listed under account number 000007-07549-9.

The Allied Bank's head office in Ayala Avenue, Makati also had Velarde connection through account number 001-10651-1 under the name of Kelvin Garcia who allegedly contributed P210 million to the Velarde account.

The Metrobank branch in Salcedo Village, Makati City, also had an unnamed account holder with account number 007-083-50303-0. This account holder contributed P44.945 million to the Velarde account through a check.

Equitable PCIbank President Deogracias Vistan, or his designated representative for the bank's Binondo and Makati City branches, was also asked to provide documents on the accounts of Ramon Lee under account number 000110-20287-3 who allegedly contributed P208.3 million; Mark Jimenez, with account number 000110-25409-1 who contributed P10 million; and Lucio Co who contributed P233.5 million through his account number 000111-12660-7.

The Metrobank branch manager of Magdalena Center in Binondo was also sought for subpoena for two account holders: the first, with account number 00700-165186-9 who contributed P88 million to the Velarde account; and another unnamed account holder of 00700-1657387 who contributed P10 million.

The Metrobank branch manager in Divisoria center was also included to explain the P36 million contribution of an unnamed account holder with account number 00700-019088-1.

The prosecution asked that the hearings be set from Aug. 13 to 17, at 2 p.m.

Also yesterday, the lawyers of Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, asked the Sandiganbayan to declare as a "sham pleading" the Ombudsman's "motion to censure" the Estradas and their lawyers.

In a four-page motion, the lawyers asked the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division, to remove the prosecution's motion seeking to declare them in contempt for allegedly criticizing the court from the records of the plunder case.

The lawyers said the prosecution could not show any "specific utterance or action of any of the defense counsel which is censurable."

They said the jailed ex-president was not referring to the judicial system in general when he said that he would not get a fair trial here, but only to a particular justice, Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the 3rd division.

The defense lawyers have also sought to inhibit Badoy from hearing the plunder case.

Bill to open gov't men's bank accounts

By Armand Nocum

NEOPHYTE Sen. Joker Arroyo wants to lay open the bank accounts of all government officials—from barangay captain to the President—to prevent the banking system from being used to conceal ill-gotten wealth.

In justifying his proposed bill, Arroyo cited the case of jailed ex-president Estrada who used the country's bank secrecy laws to prevent the opening of the envelope containing evidence of billions of stolen wealth in banks during his impeachment trial.

"We have peculiar problems as shown in the impeachment trial; that trial showed that public officials have used the banking system as a shield to hide their ill-gotten wealth," said Arroyo, who was one of the prosecutors at the Senate impeachment trial.

The prosecution alleged that Estrada used the alias "Jose Velarde" to hide his ownership of peso and dollar accounts running into billions.

"We could not even open some of the bank accounts because of the bank secrecy laws, so you eliminate that and that's it," Arroyo said, recalling the prosecution's difficulty in getting the second envelope opened.

Eleven senators voted not to open the envelope, driving the government and private prosecutors to walk out. The resulting public outrage led to the peaceful Edsa 2 uprising that threw out Estrada.

The General Banking Act and the Bangko Central Act provide for complete secrecy of bank accounts.

Arroyo said that the purpose of his proposed bill is to prevent public officials from accumulating wealth and using the banks as cover.

He said that in his measure, "any bank accounts can be opened."

Told that this might result in the wholesale removal of government officials from the bureaucracy, Arroyo said the measure would bring a "surfeit of honest officials" to the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

But he assured that private individuals would not be covered by the measure.

"Insofar as private individuals are concerned, I would think that they should be given the protection of the Bank Secrecy Law, but the moment they become public officials, they should not be given that protection," he said.

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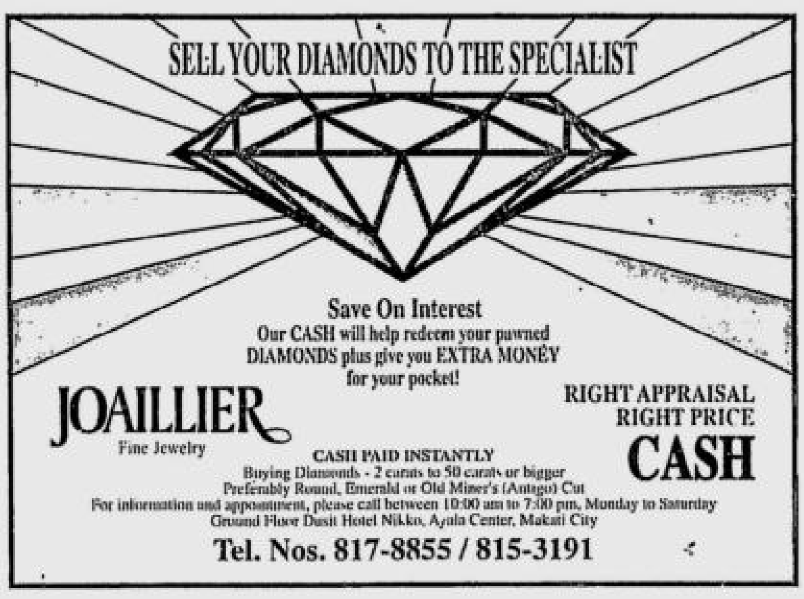
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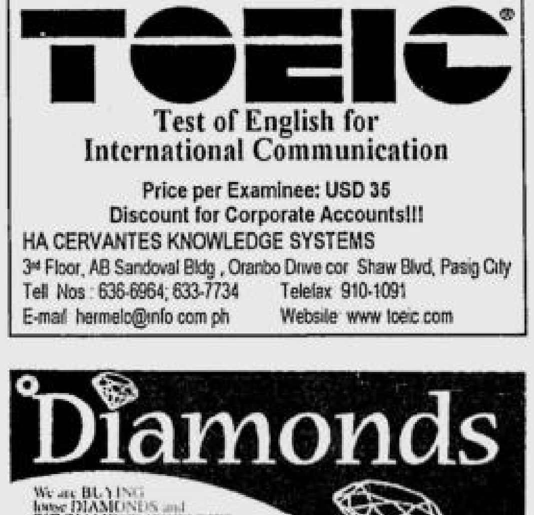
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Gov't, Moro rebs resume peace talks in Malaysia

PORT DICKSON, Malaysia—The Philippine government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels resumed marathon peace talks yesterday in Malaysia aimed at ending decades of fighting in Mindanao.

Jesus Dureza, chief negotiator for the Philippine government, told reporters that the talks at a resort hotel on Malaysia's southwest coast could go on until Aug. 3 and would add specifics to a general agreement for a ceasefire reached last month in Libya.

Dureza said the MILF negotiators had complained about weapons being seized by the Armed Forces in apparent conflict with the agreement. The creation of a ceasefire monitoring body would reduce the chances for misunderstandings, he said.

"There will be one joint monitoring body," Dureza said. "We will not be involving the UN."

Dureza said the initial two-hour meeting to set out a framework for subsequent negotiations had gone well, and that the hot-button issue of establishing an Islamic state would not be discussed.

"Everyone was talking about the need to silence the guns in order to have peace," Dureza said.

The talks will give priority to creating the ceasefire monitoring body, which will include Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia, three nations that have supported negotiations between the government and rebels.

The Malaysian Foreign Ministry and the Philippines Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, 90 km to the north of Port Dickson, gave no details about the discussions.

"Malaysia is not involved in the negotiations in any way," said a senior Malaysian Foreign Ministry official, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. 'We are only facilitating the talks."

Dureza confirmed that the talks would tackle details of the accord signed last month in Libya, where both sides agreed to reactivate a 1997 ceasefire, develop war-ravaged regions and discuss Muslim claims to ancestral lands.

The rebels, who want to create an independent Muslim nation in the Mindanao region, agreed to resume negotiations with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration after talks with her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, collapsed last year after he ordered a massive assault.

Ms Macapagal has refused to negotiate with a smaller but more extreme Muslim rebel group, the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding about 20 hostages on the island of Basilan.

Muslim separatists have been battling the government, dominated by the Roman Catholic majority, for about 30 years. The fighting has killed more than 120,000 people and turned one of the country's most resource-rich regions into the poorest. *AP*

Sabaya threatens hostages

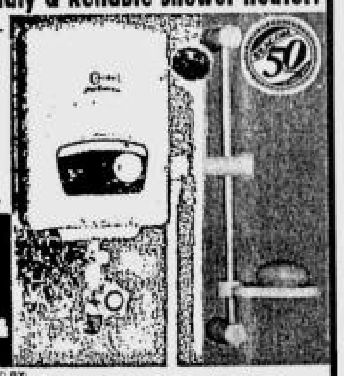
ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf bandits threatened to harm their 21 American and Filipino hostages and attack Christian villagers in retaliation for a massive government crackdown, radio stations reported yesterday.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya called several radio stations this city on Monday to issue the threats, but was not put on air, they said.

The hostages, including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham of Kansas, are being held on the nearby island of Basilan.

Abu Sabaya also warned the rebels would kill Christian civilians in retaliation for the crackdown on their supporters ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo two weeks ago.

If the military is capable of arresting Muslims, "we are also capable of executing Christian civilians," Sabaya was quoted as saying by a radio station manager who did not want to be named. *AFP*



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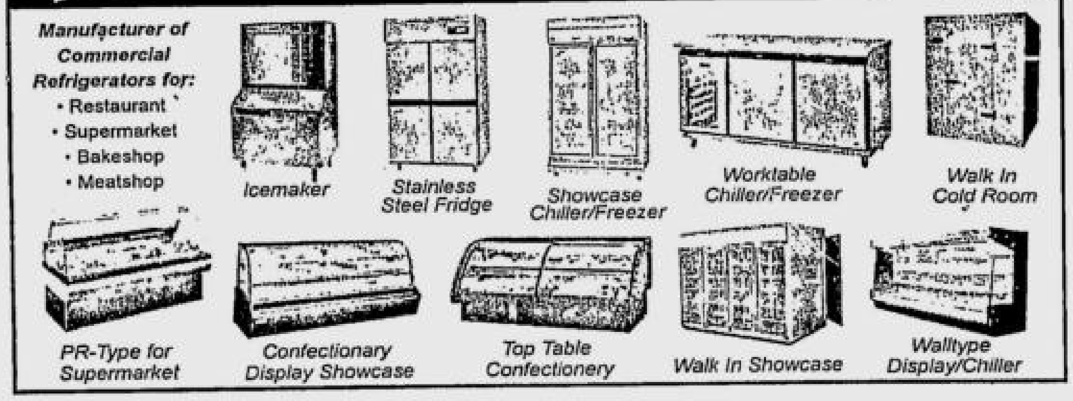

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Wahid refuses to leave Palace

(From page A1)

nation's first free elections in 1999.

Despite her popularity, there is widespread concern about Megawati's leadership mettle and her close ties to the military, which has a history of human rights abuses, corruption and interference in politics.

Megawati earned praise for standing up to former dictator Suharto in the mid-1990s, but some believe her rise reflects more of an elite power struggle than a commitment to the common good.

"I am hoping that the Megawati forces will come to their senses and realize that this is not simply about power, but also about how to make a difference," said Andi Mallarangeng, a political analyst in Jakarta.

Indonesia's major political players, including the military, supported Megawati's ascension to the presidency.

The national assembly elected her with a 591-0 vote, although about 100 pro-Wahid legislators boycotted the proceedings.

MEGAWATI Sukarnoputri waves to journalists shortly after she was sworn in as the new president of Indonesia.

OUSTED President Abdurrahman Wahid, assisted by his daughter Yenni, waves to supporters outside the presidential palace in Jakarta.

PHOTOS BY REUTERS

Digging in

Wahid, a nearly blind Muslim cleric who has suffered two strokes, remained holed up in the presidential palace Tuesday.

"Wahid will not leave the palace," said his spokesperson, Adhi Massardi. He said Megawati had sent an envoy to Wahid late Monday asking for a meeting between the two.

"Wahid still feels that he is the president of Indonesia, legally and morally," Massardi said.

He added, however, that the former president understood he had little political support left.

Wahid's aides confirmed that presidential guards had left the palace, though a police and army presence remained.

The aides also said Wahid would still speak publicly on Wednesday evening.

Amien Rais, the national assembly chair who orchestrated Wahid's impeachment on corruption and incompetence charges, said Wahid should be persuaded, not forced, to vacate the palace.

Akbar Tandjung, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, also said he would like to avoid force "but if he stays there we can ask the police to remove him."

Wahid has made no public statement since his ouster Monday afternoon. He did, however, briefly appear at the palace doors late in the day.

Wearing shorts and slippers, he waved to several hundred supporters standing outside the palace gates.

First order

Mallarangeng said Megawati's first order of business should be to "reach out to Wahid's supporters, who are very emotional, and start the healing process."

Megawati is expected to announce a new Cabinet in the next few days. Many hope it will consist of technocrats capable of steering Indonesia out of an economic crisis, reversing Wahid's failed attempts to reform the banking sector and attract foreign investors.

The three leading candidates for vice president represent old order forces from the military, Muslim parties and Suharto backers—raising concerns about Megawati's commitment to reform.

After emerging from a meeting with Megawati on Tuesday, Rais said that the new vice president would be elected Wednesday. "Megawati has no preference about who becomes vice president," he said.

The new president's greatest challenge will likely be holding together the sprawling Southeast Asian nation of 210 million people that her expansionist father helped create.

Many believe she will be less willing than Wahid to tolerate separatism and that she will move to crush rebellions in the restive provinces of Aceh and Irian Jaya.

On Tuesday, the US-based Indonesia Human Rights Network urged Megawati to "halt a crackdown by Indonesian security forces on human rights activists and other civilians" in those provinces.

After Wahid's ouster, the Indonesian currency, the rupiah, surged 10 percent and the stock market rose 2 percent. In trading Tuesday, the currency rose another 4 percent, but the stock market dropped by about 3 percent.

AP

Gloria congratulates new Indon president

(From page A1)

advanced and its quest to strengthen its democratic institution will be achieved," she also said in a letter to Megawati.

"On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations on your assumption of office as the fifth President of the Republic of Indonesia."

Ms Macapagal paid credit to Jakarta's "leading role in promoting greater economic integration and security in the region and maintaining unity and dynamism" in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the two countries.

"I look forward to personally meeting and congratulating Your Excellency at the earliest opportunity," she said.

Both Ms Macapagal and Megawati are 54 years old and have prominent moles on their faces. Both are daughters of former presidents, both have three children, and both were vice presidents who assumed office under similar circumstances.

Ms Macapagal, daughter of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, took power in a popular revolt that toppled her impeached predecessor Joseph Estrada in January.

Megawati, daughter of Indonesia's founding leader Sukarno, replaced President Abdurrahman Wahid as her country, like the Philippines, is struggling with a host of problems, including a shaky economy and deteriorating peace and order.

Both leaders have husbands who have been accused of influence peddling.

US endorsement

After endorsing the legislature's election of Megawati as Indonesia's new president, the United States urged the Southeast Asian nation to maintain peace, work toward national reconciliation and stamp out corruption.

The US Department of State said Indonesia's political upheaval would provoke a fresh look at US policies toward Jakarta but added it was too soon to signal any possible new initiatives.

World leaders, including US President George W. Bush, quickly endorsed Megawati because of her democratic credentials and expressed hope Indonesia would enter an era of stability.

"We urge all parties there to work together to maintain peace, support the Constitution and promote national reconciliation," said Philip Reeker, deputy state department spokesperson.

But while US diplomats in Jakarta are working hard to cement ties with the new government "it's a little premature to make a major statement about next steps there," Reeker said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan wished Megawati every success, hoping "the kind of change that is taking place now will remain peaceful, democratic and that the nation will come together to get themselves out of this difficulty."

"I think what is important is the democratic process seems to have been applied or followed," Annan said.

China, Japan

China and Japan also congratulated Megawati and pledged to work for better mutual relations with Indonesia.

"China and Indonesia have made great progress in advancing friendly cooperation and exchanges in the fields of politics, economy, trade, science and technology in recent years," Chinese President Jiang Zemin was quoted by the Xinhua news agency as saying in his message.

The two countries had signed a joint statement last year outlining the direction for future bilateral cooperation, he noted.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said he hoped for a swift restoration of stability in Indonesia after the tumultuous 21 months served by Wahid.

"Political stability will help Indonesia's economic development," Tang said, according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi also sent a message of congratulations to the new president and reiterated Japan's support for reform in Indonesia.

But Koizumi's office said in a statement that the embattled Wahid had "made every effort to build a new Indonesia in the reform process for its democratization."

Southeast Asia

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong sent Megawati a congratulatory letter, saying she had in her "quiet and confident way provided strong leadership" in Indonesia.

"We hope Indonesia will recover soon," Goh said of wealthy Singapore's poor neighbor that has been ravaged by economic crisis and ethnic, religious and separatist conflicts.

Malaysia's outspoken Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said he hoped for a stable Indonesia, but added that he was not in a position to comment on the change in leadership.

"It is Indonesia's problem and we hope whatever they do brings good to Indonesia," Mahathir was quoted by the Bernama news agency as saying.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said in Bangkok that "it didn't matter who is president but the sooner the region's politics becomes stable, the better."

Asean support

In Hanoi, foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations lined up Tuesday behind Megawati, declaring at an annual meeting here that the peaceful transition of power in the region's biggest nation would benefit them all.

In a joint statement at the end of the two-day meeting, the foreign ministers said they "welcomed the changes in the political situation and election of Megawati as president of Indonesia."

The ministers from the 10-nation bloc also "expressed hope that the peaceful changes will lead to political stability and economic restoration in Indonesia."

The ministers "reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity and unity of Indonesia" and hoped the dramatic change of government would lead to "peace and stability in the region."

The crisis in Indonesia, by far the region's biggest and most influential country, loomed large over the annual Asean get-together.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab remained in Jakarta in a doomed attempt to rally support for Wahid, his close ally.

Guingona

Philippine Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona said the region was unfazed by the election of the largely untested Megawati.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," he told reporters in Hanoi.

Asean is happy "as long as the process is peaceful, legal and in accordance with the law," Guingona said.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong declared "the crisis is almost over."

Asked whether there would be any region-wide repercussions after Indonesia's parliament dumped Wahid, he said: "I don't think so. We support any decision of the people."

Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino said he had sent a personal letter of congratulations to Megawati.

"We hope that Indonesia will continue to support Asean," he told reporters.

"We're satisfied that it's going on peacefully and in accordance with the constitution," he said of the historic events unfolding in Jakarta.

East Timor

East Timor's Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta, whose own country split from Indonesia in 1999, was cautious about commenting on Megawati, who begged East Timorese not to vote for independence.

"By and large, what everybody has to do is watch carefully without interfering," he said in Hanoi. Timor, which is not an Asean member, attended the talks as an observer.

Megawati has never publicly recognized East Timor's independence and has refused to meet with Ramos-Horta or independence leader Xanana Gusmao, although they make frequent visits to Jakarta.

Yeoh Lay Hwee, an analyst at Singapore's Institute of International Affairs, said a stable Indonesia was vital if the Association of Southeast Asian Nations wanted to be taken seriously and that Megawati had a lot to prove.

"Who will her Cabinet members be? Will it be horse-trading or will she appoint experts?" she asked. "I don't think it's going to help solve the problems if it's just a case of horse trading."

Although markets in Indonesia soared on the day's news, it dented sentiment in Singapore, with traders saying they were worried further chaos in Indonesia would hurt the region. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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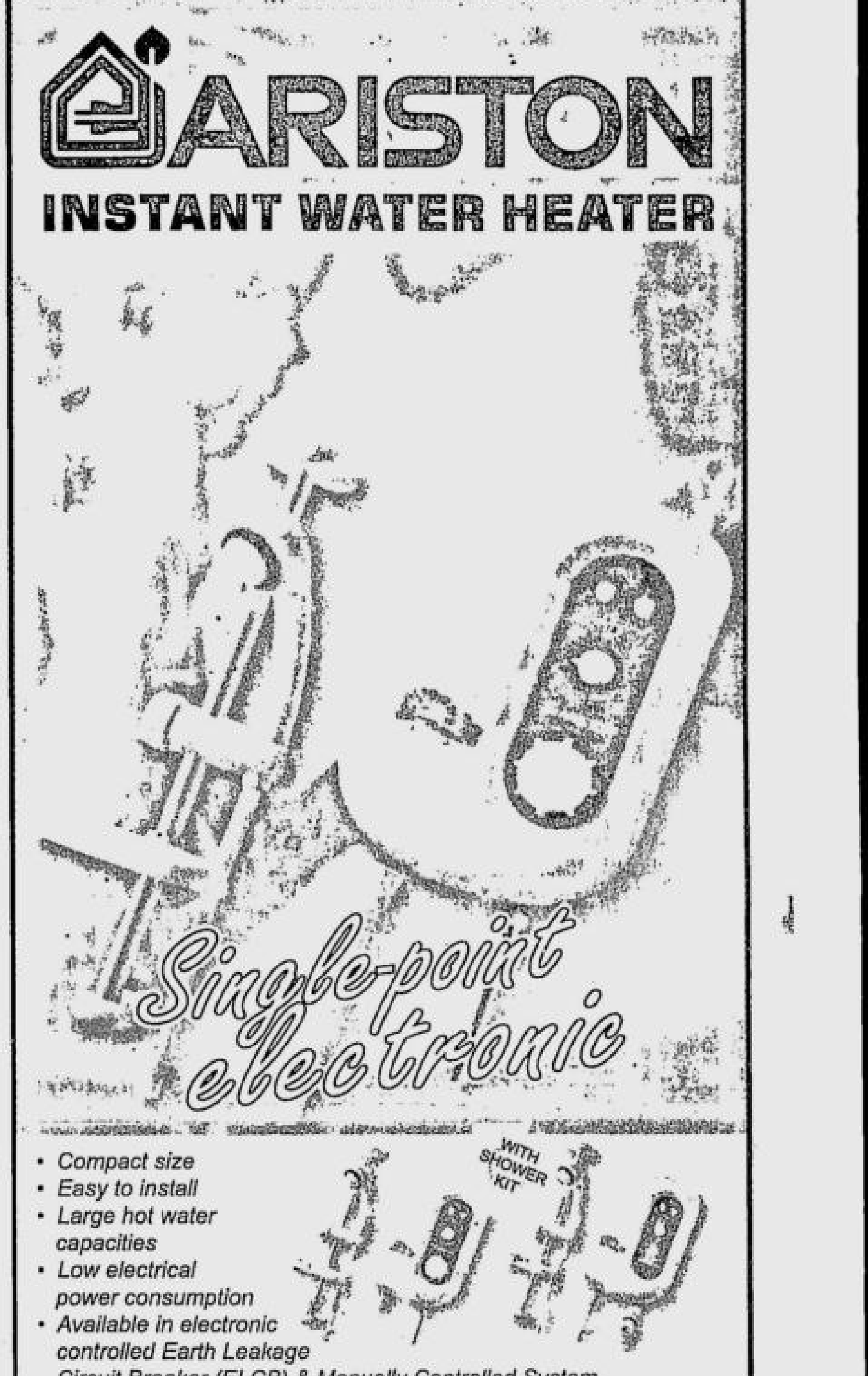

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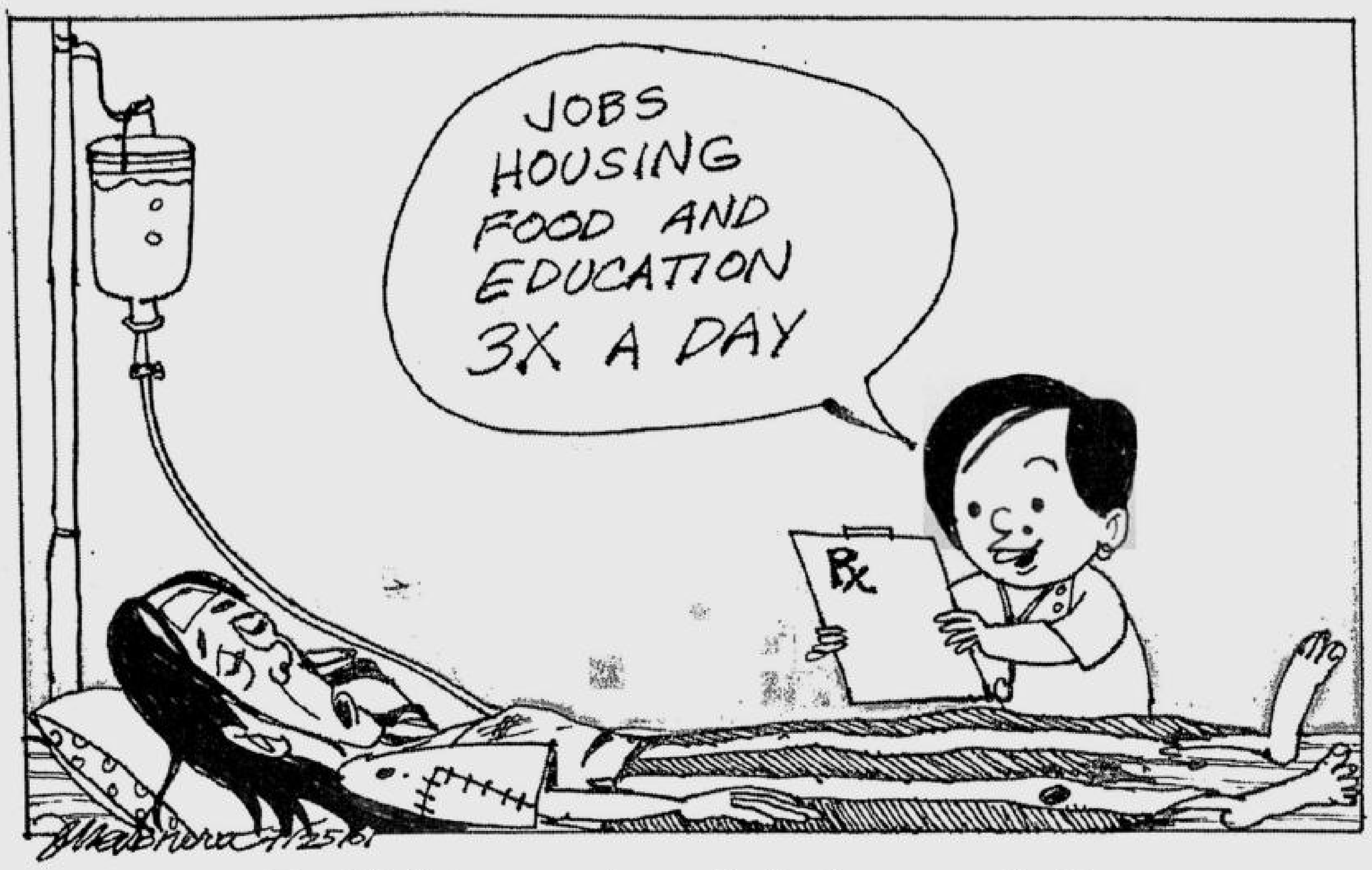

Where's the money?

EDITORIAL

FOR ALL the specifics she worked into her administration's agenda, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems to have left out some very significant details from her program to eliminate poverty. These all-important details are how much the program will cost and where will the government get the wherewithal to achieve the objectives she set forth in her first State of the Nation Address.

In her speech last Monday, Ms Macapagal spelled out the objectives of her administration and assigned costs to some of the projects she identified. She promised, among other things, to put P20 billion a year into agriculture, another P20 billion into housing for the poor and P500 million into the areas in Mindanao affected by conflict with the Moro rebels and the Abu Sayyaf. She also pledged to build a schoolhouse in every barangay, create a million jobs in agriculture, distribute 200,000 hectares of farmlands and send out 1,000 rolling stores to sell rice at P14 a kilo.

All these, of course, will cost the government plenty. But exactly how much, everyone is still guessing. Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who cast his lot with the opposition after winning reelection as a candidate of the pro-administration People Power Coalition, was heard telling another senator at one point in the President's speech, "We are already at P1 trillion. We better start looking for the money now." Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the projects Ms Macapagal outlined in her speech would cost a total of about P500 billion.

It was as if the two senators heard two different speeches. And if senators can be confused about the figures involved, how much better can the people appreciate what the administration intends to do for them and for the nation?

Regardless of whether these projects cost P1 trillion, P500 billion or a fraction of those sums, the more basic question is: Where is the money coming from? Government resources are already spread as thinly as it can possibly be, and yet the government is straining mightily to keep the budget deficit at P140 billion this year. Next year, the deficit is tentatively targeted to contract to P130 billion and then go down further to P80 billion in 2003. With economic growth slowing down this year and 2002 predicted to be even worse, with scores of businesses closing shop and thousands of workers losing their jobs, there is little room to expand tax collections and other sources of revenue. How do you stretch a budget that has been stretched to the breaking point?

Given the tight financial fix the government finds itself in, people would have understood if Ms Macapagal limited her promises to doing things that can be done at little or no extra cost to the government, like cutting red tape, eliminating graft and corruption and dealing decisively with the forces that make people insecure about their persons and the safety of their homes. But she chose to make the war on poverty the cornerstone of her program of government and so she had to come up with the strategy to win the war.

It's a costly strategy obviously. But how does the administration propose to produce the money? The promises Ms Macapagal made will be the standard against which her administration's performance will be measured. And she only has three years, fraught with economic instability and uncertainty, to deliver.

China card

FOREIGN COMMENT

WHEN Stalin and Mao Zedong signed a treaty of friendship half a century ago, the two communist giants bestrode the world. Stalin had advanced the Russian Empire to the center of Europe; Mao had just won a bloody and resounding victory in the world's most populous country. The two men made no secret of their unremitting hostility to the capitalist world.

By contrast the "Good Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation" signed yesterday by President Putin and President Jiang Zemin explicitly states that it is not aimed at third parties. It calls the treaty a legal framework for a reestablished friendship, seeks to expand trade, commits both countries to strengthening the United Nations, talks of cooperating on human rights and proclaims, extravagantly, that Russian and China are "friends forever, never enemies."

In fact, each is seeking thereby to bolster world influence. The treaty will be surely seen in Washington as a challenge…ever since the Sino-Soviet border clashes in 1969, America has sought to "play the China card" against Moscow, often with considerable success. Now it appears the Americans might appear once again to be the odd ones out.

The Times (London)

Is GMA another Scheherazade?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo began her State of the Nation Address with a lie. She told us the tale of three squatter children who wrote messages to her on paper, folded the paper into paper boats and floated them down the Pasig River, from Payatas to Malacañang, where she found them and read the messages. But anybody who had ever floated paper boats as a child on sidewalk canals, streams or ponds know that the story could never have happened. A paper boat can stay afloat no more than five minutes. It immediately soaks up water and sinks. The paper boats of the three boys, Jason, Jomar and Erwin, could not have floated from the Payatas dump to Malacañang, a distance of several kilometers. That story is nothing but a tall tale.

(*President Macapagal said in an interview with Tina Monzon Palma on ANC Channel 21 Monday night that she learned about the contents of the letters of the three children from newspaper reports.*—**Ed.**)

The President's speechwriter must have seen the movie "Message in a Bottle" starring Kevin Costner, which was shown on HBO recently. But he—and whoever suggested that the tale of the three boys open up the speech did the President a disservice. It's not even original. And ironically, Erap started in a movie titled "Bangkang Papel sa Umaapoy na Dagat (Paper Boats in a Burning Sea)."

And as observers noted, Jason, Jomar and Erwin are mere reincarnations of Mang Pandoy, the squatter father of many children whom President Fidel V. Ramos used as his Everyman to symbolize his concern for the poor. It turned out Mang Pandoy was a very poor choice. He was spoiled, lionized and given a job, a sinecure at the House of Representatives, a regular radio-TV program of his own and capital for a cooperative in his community. Nothing came out of all that help. After the cooperative's money ran out, Mang Pandoy is back to siring children while his more enterprising neighbors in Quezon City made a good living making furniture from discarded *palo china*.

The Ramos administration exploited Mang Pandoy for its own selfish purposes and after they had finished with him, just dropped him. Is the Macapagal administration guilty of child exploitation in using Jason, Jomar and Erwin for its own public relations purpose?

Oh, all right, they can say that the story of Jason, Jomar and Erwin is just to give face to the millions of poor people whom the Macapagal administration and society should help. It was a touch of show biz, some people said, a gimmick. But one resorts to gimmicks only when he has little to say, to divert the people's attention. And the President said a mouthful. She said everything that the people, especially the poor, wanted to hear. She will provide jobs, education, homes, food on the table, cheap medicine, curb graft and corruption, promote peace and order, ease traffic congestion. How can anybody go wrong with those? It was almost as if they listed down all the complaints from the public and decided that she would promise to solve all of them. And promise she did—like a candidate fishing for votes, according to opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Like a fairy tale, said Sen. Loi Ejercito.

"I am not a miracle worker," admitted the President. But we have to admit that she is a good teller of tales. That was the talent that saved Princess Scheherazade from being beheaded. She told wonderful fairy tales for a thousand and one nights that kept the Arabian Caliph postponing her beheading.

Is there a similarity between Ms Macapagal and Scheherazade?

* * *

Another teller of tall tales is,—you know him—Ador, the former PAOCTF informer who has been telling stories about his former boss, Lacson, and other police officials identified with him. People have started calling him "Tusitala," the moniker applied to Robert Louis Stevenson, meaning "teller of tales." Pinocchio's nose grows longer every time he told a lie, but, in the case of Ador, it seems it is another part of his face which grew longer.

Anyway, unlike Scheherazade, Ador's tales bring not joy but pain to the subjects of his stories. One of them is Police Director Edgar B. Aglipay who wrote a very pained letter to me and an open letter to Ador who had implicated him in the illegal drug trade.

"I would like to seek your assistance in bringing out the truth," he wrote to me. "I have built my name and service reputation over the past 30 years through hard work, diligence and dedication. It therefore pains me and my family that someone of dubious character suddenly appears out of nowhere to destroy my name and reputation."

"My track record and service reputation can be checked with any officer in the service," he wrote. "It is they who know what kind of officer I am.

"I have no idea why this agent Ador has implicated me when I do not even know him. I have never talked to him in my entire life.

"For the record, I have never been engaged in any illegal activity in my whole life. For me, my integrity and reputation counts more than material advancement. But above all, my relationship with our Lord matters most.

"I am married to Marietta Yan, daughter of retired Gen. Manuel Yan, who has served our government for 68 years. My wife manages our family business, a trucking company, which has been existing for 28 years now. It is this business which has supported our family expenses through the years. It has sent all my children to school."

General Aglipay's open letter to Ador in tomorrow's column.

State of the nation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST, the good news.

It might have been the impeachment trial again where I watched President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Sona, which was at the PRESS office. There was the familiar air of curiosity, if not anticipation. I don't know if that was the case elsewhere, but the day before, a neighbor's radio was at full blast and was full of listeners' commentaries about the Macapagal administration. It was an AM station, home to the *masa*, and the commentaries were not flattering. But the level of stridence suggested passionate public involvement in the affairs of state. Maybe it's the result of Edsa II and "Edsa III," but people have become more aware and concerned about what's going on. And probably more vigilant: The poor in particular are bound to remember Ms Macapagal's promises and hold her to them.

As to the President's Sona itself, there *was* one piece of good news there. No, it wasn't the appearance of the three kids from Payatas, which looked a little too show biz. And which might have weakened, rather than strengthened, the believability of the President being serious about carrying out the promises she made in her speech: it didn't show resolve, it showed PR. The really good news was the President vowing to give the overseas Filipinos the vote. That is well past due and it is good that the highest official of the land should show her support for it in the most unequivocal terms. That overseas vote, as I keep saying, is one that is fairly enlightened and impervious to guns, goons and gold. Along with the youth vote, it should help mightily to counteract not just *trapo* politics but show-biz politics.

And now the bad news.

Contrary to what was promised, the speech was long, and though Ms Macapagal has improved by leaps and bounds in her public speaking, she cannot make the angels weep. Well, speaking at that length she might have, in quite another sense. It did not help that the speech turned out to be another Fookien Times Yearbook entry, the kind where public officials tick off their seeming accomplishments. I wonder when Sonas will ever take the aspect of a Gettysburg address or Churchill's "blood, sweat and tears" speech. That is to say, short but meaningful, simple but deeply moving. Ronald Reagan had that, by the way, a great speechwriter in Peggy Noonan, the woman who crafted his brilliant address at the 50th anniversary of the Normandy landing. Reagan had the French weeping before he was through—a remarkable feat for an American, and an American president at that. But that's another story.

The only difference in Ms Macapagal's case was that it wasn't a list of accomplishments, it was a list of promises. Ms Macapagal did preface everything by saying things were not well with the nation—an economic crisis was besetting the world, and was taking its toll on the country. The rest of the speech was to show that but by dint of her vision, or what she intended to do for the nation, we Filipinos would prevail. Take it for what it's worth. Anyone can make promises, even Mang Popoy from the barbershop. He has been promising to make his haircuts more fashionable for as long as I can remember.

Two things did not help to bolster the President's credibility. The first was her reference to this country's revolutionary past, which she said was the guiding force of her vision. A revolutionary past that began with Bonifacio's war of liberation, metamorphosed into her father's war against poverty, and took on the aspect of two bloodless revolutions nearly a century later. I agree completely that the last two displays of people power, Edsa I and II, were a continuation of Bonifacio's magnificent project. The bloodlessness was completely incidental, the trajectory—which was to end tyranny—was not. That continued to partake of the spirit of revolution Bonifacio waged, a spirit of freeing the poor and oppressed from the yoke of poverty and oppression.

I am not so sure that her father's administration qualifies as a link in that progression. Diosdado Macapagal might have been the poor man of Lubao, as he advertised himself in the elections, but his policies never redounded to the benefit of the poor of Lubao or anywhere else in this country. Diosdado Macapagal will always be remembered as the architect of decontrol—the forerunner of today's globalization, of which his daughter is the foremost exponent—a policy that wrecked local industry, and brought unemployment and untold suffering for the poor in the 1960s. No way can that be seen as a continuation of Bonifacio's struggle. If that is the tradition Ms Macapagal means to anchor her vision on—and her pro-business stance would indicate so—we're in for trouble. Or the poor are.

Which brings me to the second point that little helped to inspire confidence Ms Macapagal would deliver on her promise. Ms Macapagal's reference to the past and her anchoring of her vision to it gave the world to see precisely a framework by which to weigh her utterances. That is, by comparing the past with the future, by comparing what has been, or is, with what can be. Ms Macapagal may not have been long in office, but she has been there long enough. She has been President since late January of this year.

Never mind her four-point agenda, which she keeps repeating like a mantra, and which sounds like a bad mantra now. There is only one thing the people really expect of her, which is the same thing they expected from Corazon Aquino, whom they also brought to power on their backs. Which is to be the opposite of the tyrant they overthrew. Which is to bring back hope to the country by exercising a level of honesty and rectitude as epic as the rottenness and corruption they mean to replace.

Aquino didn't do that. And the question is if Ms Macapagal can. That was the one question that dangled over Congress last Monday afternoon like the sword of Damocles, which Ms Macapagal never dispelled. Of course she said she had asked the Sandiganbayan to ferret out the corrupt from the highest places in government. Well, even as she spoke, there *was* one case of corruption in the highest places in government—certainly there was more than probable cause to believe so—and she would not deal with it. That was the loudest silence of all. That was what made even her seeming desire to go after Erap with an iron hand—her words, her velvet glove covered an iron hand—sound weak and irresolute. It made you wonder if the opposite were not true, that she had a velvet hand in an iron glove.

I don't know that the spectacle of the three Payatas kids really bolstered anybody's confidence Ms Macapagal would do as she preached. I myself would have been an instant convert if she had trotted out Bing Rodrigo or her husband in handcuffs.

That would have been all the proof I needed.

A most applauded Sona

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address was the most applauded Sona I have heard since President Corazon Aquino's first address, delivered when the nation was intoxicated with the euphoria of the 1986 People Power.

If the speech was long on applause and rich in symbolism, it was short on bold strategic social policy shift heralding the transfer of wealth from the rich to the poor.

Although the speech was punctuated by repeated references to fight poverty, her first Sona marks her as a socially conservative President, afraid to step beyond the bounds of the social orthodoxy of all her predecessors. I shall explain this later.

Applause punctuated President Macapagal's Sona more than 80 times, which means she was applauded at an average rate of one for each minute of her 70-minute speech. She received prolonged applause on two themes. The first burst out when she said, "This administration affirms the principle that no one is above the law. Our policy is to support the fair and speedy trial of all the accused involved in the cases against former President Joseph Estrada."

The second came after she said "we will control the budget deficit by collecting taxes vigorously and spending money prudently," and asked Congress to enact a law providing for a gross income tax—a taxation reform.

She received a standing ovation when she went down the podium to present three poor children from the Payatas garbage dump, calling on Congress to commit itself to programs to give the young of the country—the poor more than the rich—a better future.

The representatives of the people responded to the themes they would like to hear and what their constituents expect from the Macapagal administration. The applause represented the mood of expectation of the nation. Her Sona plucked the strings of the national mood.

The Sona offered specifics more than any other Sona in the past. Because of its specificity, the Sona offered to the people a yardstick to measure her achievements within the year or even the next two and a half years. The Sona also planted the seeds of its own destruction—if it fails to deliver results. If the results don't live up to her standards, all the applause will turn into a violent gale storm that will demolish her presidency and leave it in a heap of ruins.

It is important to identify the macro agenda, the concrete programs to implement it, and the costs.

To translate her vision of "winning the war against poverty within the decade," the President presented a national agenda resting on four components—first, an economic policy of free enterprise "with a social conscience"; second, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity; third, social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance economic development; and fourth, raising the moral standards of government and of society and observance of the rule of law.

The specific objectives to fight poverty boil down to jobs, homes, education and enough food for the poor. Ms Macapagal gave top priority to poverty reduction, as Estrada did. Ms Macapagal, who is clearly trying to win Estrada's *masa* constituency to her side, partly for the political reason of preventing the eruption of unrest among the urban poor, has to show she can do better than Estrada who gave higher priority to enriching himself in office than delivering benefits to the poor.

Her Sona spells out concrete programs—or the "doables." They include:

- A schoolbuilding in every barangay by 2004.
- More textbooks for grade and high schools.
- Hire more teachers and increase teachers' salaries.
- One million new jobs in agriculture and fisheries, with a timetable within her term, under an agricultural modernization program.
- Put under land reform each year 100,000 hectares of private land, and 100,000 hectares of public land.
- Work "double time" to give security of land tenure to 150,000 urban poor families every year.
- Cut by 50 percent the prices of basic drugs within a year.
- Three new mass transit lines in Metro Manila completed by 2004.
- Enactment of a law making farmland acceptable as loan collateral.
- Full computerization of elections by 2004.
- Cut in half within 12 months the number of signatures on government transactions.
- Emergency employment for 200,000 out-of-school and out-of-work youths in Metro Manila.
- Launch a P20-billion mass housing program to be financed by government financial institutions.
- Transfer construction of the long-delayed Mal-Mar Irrigation Dam in Mindanao to Army engineers if dam is not completed by September. The dam would irrigate 3,000 hectares immediately and another 10,000 hectares in Mindanao.

Now for the costings. With a big budget deficit, the administration should be more specific about the sources of these immediate-term programs. It claims there's money in the budget for the farm sector with sources from the Agricultural and Modernization Act allocating P20 billion a year for five years.

Agricultural modernization was a cornerstone program of the Estrada administration. The problem was that the program was starved of budgetary resources. The program's architect was Estrada's agriculture secretary, Edgardo Angara. Estrada paid lip service to it. The program could not be fully carried out because funds earmarked for it were shifted to finance Estrada's war in Mindanao.

It's possible President Macapagal did her homework in identifying the sources of fund for her short-term "doable" programs. The opposition has a point in asking where the money will come from.

The target programs have one potentially fatal flaw. While the President has announced she will hold office at the Department of Agriculture to see that the agriculture modernization program takes off, she has not formed a monitoring "war room" with a task force to follow the work in progress. President Marcos had an infrastructure center at the Camp Aguinaldo headed by Executive Secretary Alex Melchor, monitoring closely accomplishments against targets.

Without an operations center, President Macapagal's targets will be all talk—with resources dissipated.

Acting on sexual harassment

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE OPENING of Congress and speculations surrounding the State of the Nation Address shadowed the event. Explosive revelations and a bitter exchange of accusations between an old friend of the President's and her husband eclipsed its prominence in the news. Why, even the heavy rains and flashfloods of the day before shoved it aside during the press conference that followed. Certainly, the launching of the new "Administrative Rules on Sexual Harassment Cases" by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself in Malacañang is an event that deserves more coverage than has been given it so far. Whatever news or sensation it has generated has centered around the almost casual revelation of the President that her family has not been left untouched by sexual harassment. Her daughter, she said, had been sexually harassed some years back when she worked as a consultant with the Department of Foreign Affairs during the Apec Summit. "She was pressured to drop the case," the President said, "even if she was at that time the daughter of a senator."

The women's group Gabriela subsequently "challenged" the President and her daughter to file a formal complaint against the harasser who, so DFA sources said, has been assigned abroad. But I have the feeling that if then Senator Macapagal and Luli Arroyo preferred to let the matter drop then, they won't be any more eager to pursue a case now. Can you imagine the coverage of the hearings?

Even without lifting a finger at the moment, by going public with Luli's harassment, the President has already driven home the message: If the daughter of a senator is not immune from sexual harassment, then who is?

* * *

WHAT makes the new Civil Service rules on sexual harassment significant is that they go beyond the present boundaries of the anti-sexual harassment law.

Where the law limits sexual harassment to an offense committed by a superior or someone who has seniority or moral ascendancy over the complainant, the Civil Service rules state that "authority, influence and moral ascendancy are no longer indispensable elements" in the administrative offense of sexual harassment. This opens the door to recognizing sexual harassment from peers or even a subordinate (including harassment by a student of a teacher).

Nor is coverage limited to the person directly committing the harassment. Also considered offenders are people who "induced, directed or co-operated" in the harassment. Certainly, Luli's superiors, who pressured her to drop the complaint, could be charged as conspirators under this new set of rules. If not, they could be charged with neglect of duty, as the rules provide for a head of office who fails to act within 15 days on a complaint. Once a complaint is filed and recognized, the disciplining authority has 30 days to render a decision on the case. This should finally pull the plug on those interminable investigations and hearings that end up frustrating the complainants they often drop the complaint or resign from their job, or both.

The new rules also have taken into account new forms of communications technology, with offensive or lewd messages and jokes sent by e-mail and "text" messages now considered forms of sexual harassment.

* * *

IT must be stressed, though, that the new rules cover administrative procedures, so the severest penalty that could be meted against a harasser would be dismissal from office. A complainant is still free to file a criminal complaint of sexual harassment against his/her harasser, although the anti-sexual harassment law has far narrower coverage.

But make no mistake, this is still a meaningful step forward for Filipino women. As the President noted in her talk at the launching, the government is the country's biggest employer. If only for the added protection the new rules provide, and the clarity they provide to an issue where, as the President noted, "loopholes, technicalities and gray areas" are employed to confuse and obfuscate, then sexual harassers and offenders in the civil service have good reason to tremble in fear.

One big hope is that the private sector will learn a lesson or two from the Civil Service's new guidelines. There is really no reason why, for administrative procedures, private employers cannot promulgate rules and procedures that go beyond the law. But as it is, even if the law itself requires every employer to constitute a committee on decorum and investigation to look into and decide sexual harassment complaints, this basic requirement still remains largely ignored. "Treated in a cavalier manner and trivialized," as President Macapagal observed.

Now, there isn't any excuse anymore not to act, since the Civil Service rules provide a good blueprint for an employer's own procedures and policies.

* * *

ONE thing that was quite obvious during the launching was the President's personal commitment to act on the issue of sexual harassment in the civil service. Not only does she know of it personally, perhaps from her daughter's own experience, but as a legislator, she had worked on bills dealing with issues of violence against women. As she revealed, she was the author of the legislation that eventually became the anti-sexual harassment law.

CSC Chair Karina David said she was pleasantly "surprised" when, listening to the President's speech, she noted that the Chief Executive not only read much of the speech they prepared for her, but had inserted several personal statements as well.

This, I thought, is where having a woman President makes a difference. The appreciation of issues stems not just from an intellectual analysis or canny political instinct, but deeply felt personal experience as well.

It may have taken a woman chair of the Civil Service Commission to push for the strengthening of the commission's administrative guidelines on dealing with this scourge of the workplace and public life. But it has taken a woman President to give the issue the needed prominence, a compulsion that can only stem from knowing what it takes to be a woman in a public profession.

Frightful odyssey of national records

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN you go into the National Museum exhibition space in the former Finance Building, you cannot imagine how ruined the building was after World War II. This beautiful, air-conditioned space with high-tech displays was reconstructed after the war, used by the Department of Finance and only recently turned over to the National Museum. The former Legislative building nearby, now vacated by the Senate, the Office of the Vice President, the old Sandiganbayan and other assorted government agencies, is now home to Juan Luna's "Spoliarium" and is the main office and storage space for the National Museum. The state of this building in 1945 has been immortalized in photographs, as well as paintings by Fernando Amorsolo, when it looked like a birthday cake trampled on by unruly children. This building was the most devastated after the war. After being blasted by shells and dynamite sticks shot up and its interior totally burned, the materials salvaged from it filled less than half a truckload. Most valuable were manuscripts, including some letters from Juan Luna, kept in an iron safe that had been burst open by a shell. Other artifacts of the National Library and Museum stored elsewhere in Manila City Hall, Normal Hall, etc. were spared.

According to a report on the state of Philippine Archives after the war, it was estimated that of the 300,000 volumes, that was once the pride of the National Library as late as December 1941, only 5,000 volumes, more or less, were saved. Of these, about 400-500 volumes of rare and important Filipiniana were placed in the custody of H. Otley Beyer who held office at the Watson building on Aviles Street near Malacañang. In a previous column, I quoted Beyer's own account of his salvaging operations at the Bureau of Science building in the 1950s to recover artifacts from the National Museum stored there before the Battle for Manila in 1945.

The Archives Division of the National Library was formerly housed in the Ayuntamiento building in Intramuros and could be described as a wandering collection. From Intramuros the collection of documents was transferred to the Government Cold Storage and Ice Plant near the Pasig River and finally, before the war broke out in 1941, moved to a one-story adobe structure in the Bilibid Prison! Today the National Archives shares a building with the National Library on the T. M. Kalaw side of the Luneta where one cannot imagine the conditions these historical materials were subjected to in the past.

After the war, the records that survived in the National Archives could fill 10,000 cubic feet of space. This collection contained more than 5 million pieces—loose documents tied in bundles or bound into volumes, as well as some materials in book form. The report says, "These records are of the greatest historical importance to the Philippines, they being the most complete collection of records of the Spanish regime available. Noteworthy are the Series of Royal Decrees and orders from 1660, about 18,000 pieces; series of Reales Ordenes Originales, 1625-1792 in eight volumes; Reales ordenes, 1784-1856, (mostly ministerial dispatches); a complete bound set of 'Gaceta de Manila' from 1861 to 1898."

Of course, the National Archives is part of the Bureau of Records Management that has to sift through all government records generated in the past 50 years. Thus, aside from the Spanish documents which are of use to specialist historians, there are other materials in their care: land titles, birth and death records, etc. The National Archives is literally bursting with documents and it is fortunate that what was once the prewar collection of the National Library and Museum are now distributed into four agencies: the National Library, the National Museum, the National Archives and the National Historical Institute.

It is understandable that in 1945 there was no mad rush to preserve the historical records and materials that survived the war. People had to pick up the pieces of their lives, a battered nation had to be reconstructed after its independence was recognized by the United States in 1946. Reading the report about archival documents being:

"...Stored on open wooden shelves fifteen to twenty feet high, exposed to dirt and dust and easily accessible to insects which are plentiful. Smoking is permitted in the storage areas and there are no facilities or fire-fighting...elsewhere inactive records are heaped in disorderly piles or tumbled into boxes. Other collections are stored in sheds exposed to the weather and are used as partitions to set off one family's quarters from that of another...records of the Civil Service stored in the Malacañang Annex are easily accessible to persons passing through the corridors and soldiers of the Philippine Army quartered in the building have been using these papers as sandwich wrappings."

We will never know what was lost in the war and have to be grateful for what survived. As a historian I wish I had 10 lives and 10 bodies to wade through all these, make sense of them, and, perhaps, cough up a history of the Philippines one day. After all these materials have been through, more Filipinos should use them.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu.edu.ph

China rolls up its sleeves at the Falun Gong

FEATURE

Jonathan Ansfield

BEIJING—The tour starts with blown-up photos of charred bodies, bludgeoned faces and illegal rituals.

It ends with emotional footage of women "saved" at government reeducation camps, tables demonstrating the need to take medicine and optical illusions meant to illustrate the difference between science and superstition.

For thousands in Beijing, the vast new exhibit marking the two-year anniversary of China's crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual group was a way of sobering up after the revelry of landing the 2008 Olympics.

The timing, though coincidental, highlighted the widening gulf between a government eager to ensure social stability for the Games and overseas human rights groups keen to show China's preparations for it will do more harm than good.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, combines meditation and exercise with Buddhist and Taoist teachings. It was banned in China on July 22, 1999, accused of being an evil cult trying to topple the communist government.

By Wednesday July 18, more than 25,000 people had visited the exhibit, titled "Fight Cults, Uphold Civilization" and co-sponsored by six different government offices.

Li Wei, head curator of the exhibition, says its purpose is to use visual imagery and "the facts" to educate people about the movement.

"Particularly after the Olympic success, China's social environment needs to be improved," Li told Reuters.

"These cults affect our stable social development, as well as people's basic human rights."

Falun Gong supporters overseas lashed back at similar comments made by Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing—China's chief Olympic ambassador—as he visited the exhibit on July 17.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted him as equating China's winning the right to host the Olympics with "international recognition of our country's social stability," and urged further efforts to expose Falun Gong to "guarantee lasting security."

"China uses Olympic win to justify human rights atrocities," the Falun Dafa Information Center retorted.

China holds Falun Gong responsible for the deaths of 1,660 people by suicide, refusal of medical treatment and, in a few cases, domestic violence.

Falun Gong denies endorsing violence of any kind, including suicide, and says more than 200 adherents have died in police custody since the ban.

Illegally circulated floppy disks and texts dramatizing what the government calls its "struggle" with Falun Gong alerted visitors at the exhibit to the group's resilience.

Despite neighborhood sweeps, "labor through education" camps and stern legal measures, the organization "has not ceased to be active," says Li.

In March, Chinese lawmakers made it a top priority to end Falun Gong's activities this year.

One Western diplomat said government propaganda was "evolving" toward that end and played down any immediate links between the Olympics and China's human rights record.

He said the propaganda campaign had been much more effective since the self-immolations of five purported Falun Gong members in Tianamen Square in January. Two of the five people who lit their petrol-soaked clothes died.

China identified the victims as Falun Gong believers directed to burn themselves by group leaders, a charge the group denies.

The Beijing Daily said on Friday five Falun Gong followers had been put on trial for their alleged roles in the suicide attempt.

"It's only since the immolations that there has been a popular consensus," the diplomat said, noting recent propaganda had consisted largely of human interest stories and accounts of so-called "rehabilitation" efforts.

"They have struck a very emotional chord," he said.

The People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, condemned Falun Gong on Friday as "inhumane" and told a story of adherents sticking the body of a fellow believer in a sewer to hide the evidence after she had refused medicine.

The intensifying attack on Falun Gong's "human rights" violations takes China's arguments to their logical extreme—one sign the leadership is getting anxious to move on.

"Many in China's leadership realize they have to address the underlying problems," said the diplomat, referring to popular dissatisfaction with welfare, living standards and official corruption which some believe gave rise to Falun Gong.

The high-traffic exhibit was supposed to be open to the general public, but the free entrance tickets have been reserved almost exclusively for approved tour groups.

"It's partially for the protection of visitors from...Falun Gong's violent tendencies," says Li.

Officers at a security checkpoint confiscated visitors' water bottles, an eerie reminder of the self-immolations, in which the purported Falun Gong members concealed bottles filled with petrol in their coats.

One cartoon lampooning Falun Gong founder Li Hongzhi is dotted with swastikas, a plain attempt to liken him to Hitler.

Another part of the exhibit sharpens the government's classification of Falun Gong as part of worldwide trend, with morbid images of mass suicides and violence linked with "evil cults" overseas.

"In the US they also have these groups," says a man surnamed Jin, 72, who catches every inch of the displays with his video camera. "Countries all over the world are working to oppose them."

Few seem bothered by the gore. "This is education," says a woman surnamed Bai, 45. "If you don't show people, they will never know."

"We haven't even displayed the worst of it," adds Li, the curator.

He says the dark, gruesome photoboards have been deliberately offset by lit-up images showing the smiling masses who took part in activities to oppose the spiritual group.

"We made that area brighter, to lighten the mood." *Reuters*

THEY SAID

Go forward in unity

"This is a healing presidency. What the President wants now is for the nation to stop all this bickering, all this politicking, in order to move forward because we are really underestimating the impact of the downturn of the world economy."

—Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao on the private meeting between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Radical and passive

"Her assumption to power was radical but she remains passive to the people's legitimate concerns up to this moment."

—Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño on President Macapagal

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Widow's pension given at last

JUST when one is at the end of the rope, feeling defeated and helplessly alone, somehow, someone always comes along to lend a helping hand.

This is the story I wrote about Maria T. Paras of Oahu, Hawaii, widow of a Philippine Scout veteran of World War II, whose appeal for help to obtain her old-age pension was published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on July 19. Her appeal was also read on the Internet all the way from the United States mainland to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

The reaction of the Filipino veterans from the US West Coast to help the widow was so heart-warming. No less than the US representative from Hawaii, David A. Pendleton, made a personal call to assist, and within 24 hours after publication of her story. I was on the phone advising the widow in Hawaii that her pension has been approved by the PVAO.

It was a long journey indeed for the widow in search of a helping hand, which began three years ago. So many came to help; now her search is finally over. Hawaii Rep. Patsy T. Mink never left her side. It was also the widow's good fortune of the timely intervention of the newly designated officer in charge of the PVAO, Maj. Gen. Jose S. Lachica, and Senior Adviser Col. Miguel V. Aure, who heads the Fil-American Veterans Organization for Northern California, for giving the widow the highest priority. Their assistance was fast and swift. To all of them, I extend the heartfelt thanks of widow Aling Maring, as we fondly call her.

Last but absolutely not the least, my grateful thanks to the INQUIRER for publishing my appeal for help. Without the INQUIRER's help, all of these would not have been possible.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, QC**

Good Samaritan in the floods

ON BEHALF of my daughter, Dr. April B. Llaneta, I wish to thank the Good Samaritan who offered her a lift at the height of last Thursday's downpour along the flooded Katipunan Road. She had just come out into the cold rain, without an umbrella, from the Ateneo Stadium where she and her sports medic team were on standby duty in that afternoon's UAAP basketball games. Unfortunately, in the mad rush to leave after the games, she lost sight of her remaining teammate who went out to fetch his car and decided to brave the weather on her own. While I could not quite contain my apprehension when she texted home that she had hitched a ride with a total stranger, in my heart I had a deep faith in her intuitive ability to judge people whom she could trust. To a Mr. Jun Simon (certainly not the former Quezon City mayor himself, this one was supposedly in his 30s) who owns a computer shop in nearby Teachers' Village, thank you very much for your kindness to my daughter. She would have liked to write this herself were she not busy being assistant head resident at the Department of Emergency Medical Services at the PGH.

To Mr. Simon, may the good Lord bless and keep you in his care always.—**LETICIA B. LLANETA, executive assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Reward system for whistleblowers

LETTERS

BULACAN Rep. Willie Villarama's call for a reward system for whistleblowers who provide government vital information to curb corruption (about P2-billion annually, according to a World Bank study), should be heeded by all members of Congress. After all, the primary focus of the lawmaker's interest is not on the bad persons but the good ones who want to do the right thing.

How can the law encourage citizens to keep on doing it? Setting up a reward system while at the same time strengthening the Witness Protection Program (WPP) are steps toward the right direction. Social morality needs public reinforcement. And people who are doing the right thing need to feel they are good citizens rather than suckers.—**ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st eBank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Wasn't photo offensive?

PAGE D2 of your July 4, 2001 issue contained pictures of a Gay Pride party. Without going into the matter of right or wrong insofar as gay persons are concerned, do you not think it was in bad taste and offensive to your readers to print pictures of the two men kissing, one of whom was nude and the large picture of the person with a penis and testicle prominently displayed on the print on his clothes?—**BIENVENIDO A. TAN JR., Unit 7A, The Valero Tower, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City**

Real dangers in food seasoning products

RATHER than downplaying the hazards of contaminated food seasoning products, I think the health secretary, and his avid supporter, Rina Jimenez-David, should instead immediately warn the consumers and work for the removal of these products from the market. The findings and recommendations of the British Food Standards Agency pertaining to these products should be taken seriously. Many of the products that have been found to contain very high levels of Chloropropanol contaminants are being sold here in the Philippines, including some that are actually manufactured in the country. Chloropropanols, including MCPD and DCP, are highly toxic compounds. They belong to a notorious general class of chemicals called organochlorines, which include highly toxic pesticides and industrial solvents. Most of these highly toxic substances have not been demonstrated unequivocally to cause cancer in humans mainly because it is almost impossible to do so; due to the extreme difficulty in documenting exposure and in isolating causative factors, due to the very long interval before a measurable effect manifests, and due to many other methodological and practical problems. Secretary Manuel Dayrit, therefore, is in for a very long, long wait before he can conclude that indeed Chloropropanols cause cancer in humans. I would not want to wait, however, because I am convinced that Chloropropanols most likely cause cancer in humans and because the food seasoning products in question can be withdrawn without significant damage to the public. There will, perhaps, be a little reduction in profits of a few rich people.

For the information of the public, Chloropropanols have been found to cause cancer of the liver, kidney, tongue, thyroid, testes and the breast in a clear dose-related manner in animal studies which were reviewed by the International Program on Chemical Safety (WHO). They have also been found to cause various non-cancer adverse effects in the liver, kidney, thyroid and the tongue of the animals studied. The Committee on Carcinogenesis of the United Kingdom Department of Health, after reviewing the studies, concluded that the "spectrum of tumors observed in the 104-week rat study, particularly in the liver and tongue was evidence of a clear carcinogenic effect." The Chloropropanols have also been found to cause sterility in rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, dogs, rams and rhesus monkeys. In addition, 3-mono-chloro propane diol (MCPD) was found to decrease the motility and reduce the metabolic activity of human sperm. In monkeys, it was found that a 30 mg/kg/day dose of MCPD resulted in anemia, low white blood cell count and severe platelet reduction. In view of these findings, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives has recommended that "levels should be reduced as far as technologically possible" which is practically equivalent to zero. It is significant to note that the likely consumption levels from the measured concentration levels of MCPD and DCP found in the survey done by the British Food Standards Agency would fall within the same range as the dose levels used in several of the animal studies. Usually, extrapolation of dose levels affecting animals to levels that would likely affect humans would require lowering the dose a hundredfold or more. If, for example, a 10 mg/kg dose produced adverse effects in animals, it would be reasonable to expect that at 0.10 mg/kg dose it would similarly affect humans. In the Chloropropanol case, the lowest doses that produced adverse effects in animals were from 1.1 to 5 mg/kg/day. The MCPD levels found in the contaminated food seasoning products were from 0.012 mg/kg to as high as 79.9 mg/kg and 22 percent of the samples were found to exceed the EU maximum allowable limit of 0.02 mg/kg.

I hope the Department of Health will take note and put public interest ahead of commercial interests.—**ROMEO F. QUIJANO, M.D., Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, College of Medicine, UP Manila, 547 Pedro Gil St., Manila**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

GE's classic single-door refrigerator now has a one-touch defrost and auto-freeze button in one. After a splash-free defrosting, it automatically turns itself on and activates your unit's cooling system. That easy. That's why we're Asia's Superbrand Gold Award winner for two consecutive years. After all, we're the trusted name in quality, value and durability --- decade after decade. Let's drink to that!

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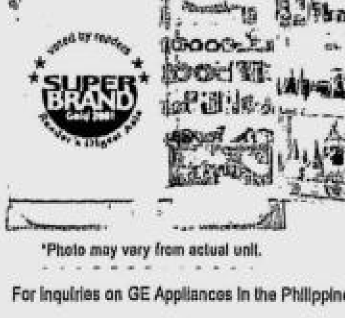

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Suicide bombers destroy Sri Lanka international airport, main airbase

COLOMBO—Tamil rebels staged a daring suicide attack against Sri Lanka's main airbase and the only international airport yesterday, destroying eight military aircraft and five civilian jets, officials said.

At least three airforce men and nine rebels of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) perished in the pre-dawn attack, the defense ministry said.

The rebels destroyed military aircraft, including two Israeli-built Kfir jets, a Mi-24 helicopter gunship and one Ukrainian MiG-27. An ammunition dump and fuel storage tanks were also blown up.

The attack began at the Katunayake airbase, 35 km north of here, and quickly spread to the adjoining Bandaranaike International airport, defense ministry spokesperson Sanath Karunaratne said.

The airport was immediately shut down and all international flights to Sri Lanka were diverted to neighboring India.

Sri Lanka's national carrier, SriLankan Airlines which is partly owned and fully managed by Emirates of Dubai, lost five Airbus aircraft that were parked on the apron of the airport.

At least one Russian crew member of an unidentified airline was wounded and evacuated to hospital together with a state television journalist who was shot and wounded while troops conducted a search of the terminal. *AFP*

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US vows to help world cut greenhouse gases

TOKYO—US Secretary of State Colin Powell pledged yesterday that the United States would work with other countries to overcome differences on how to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Powell spoke to reporters in Tokyo after negotiators in Bonn, Germany, ignored US objections and agreed to rules for trying to deal with the problem.

"We are committed to working with all nations of the world to find a consensus in the near future," Powell said.

In Bonn, diplomats from 178 nations reached an agreement that opens the way for countries to ratify the 1997 Kyoto protocol.

Powell repeated that the protocol was not acceptable to the United States. He said the United States has a good record on environmental protection and is not shirking its responsibilities to help reduce greenhouse gases.

"Hopefully, we can present some new ideas," he said.

US President George W. Bush maintains the Kyoto pact's requirements on US emission cuts would harm American business. He also considers it unfair that standards apply only to developed countries, omitting major polluters such as China and India.

Powell discussed the issue yesterday during a meeting with Japan's prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, whose government refuses to commit to ratifying the accord as long as the United States is not on board.

Japan was the first stop for Powell on a five-country swing to countries of the Asia-Pacific rim. He was due in Vietnam in early evening for three days of talks among more than 20 foreign ministers from regional countries.

Powell said he does not think that the political upheaval in Indonesia constitutes a crisis for the region. President Abdurrahman Wahid was forced from office Monday amid charges of misrule and corruption and was replaced by the vice president, Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Powell said he was encouraged that constitutional processes werebeing followed in Indonesia and urged all parties to act with moderation. The situation in the world's fourth-largest country was expected to be a major topic of discussion among delegates in Hanoi.

A North Korean delegation planned to attend the deliberations in Hanoi, but it was unclear whether Powell planned to meet with its members. Pyongyang has yet to respond to Bush's offer in June to resume security negotiations.

Calling for patience, Powell said this tends to be a more deliberative process than some believe. The United States wants North Korea to scale back on its programs to develop and export missiles and to reduce its massive conventional forces near the South Korean border.

Powell again defended the US military presence in Okinawa, calling it a "visible manifestation" of the US security relationship with Japan.

He said he regrets that incidents of misbehavior by US troops—including an Air Force sergeant charged with raping a Japanese woman last month—have put the US.presence at risk. He added that such incidents have to be minimized as much as possible. *AP*

Sri Lanka raid born of an ancient conflict

BY DILIP GANGULY

COLOMBO—The Tamil Tiger rebel attack on Sri Lanka's main airport yesterday coincided with the 18th anniversary of anti-Tamil riots that started the civil war between the small island's two main ethnic groups.

Their dispute, however, was born of an ancient conflict between two peoples with their own distinct languages, cultures and history.

The majority Sinhalese—who make up 76 percent of Sri Lanka's 18.6 million people—are mainly Buddhist, and are generally concentrated in the southern and central part of the Indian Ocean island nation off India's southern coast.

Most of the Tamils, 18 percent of the population, are Hindus. They live largely in the country's north and east and in the tea-growing hill areas of central Sri Lanka. Some have been drawn to the capital, Colombo, in search of jobs, education and business. Colombo's thriving gold trade is dominated by Tamil artisans.

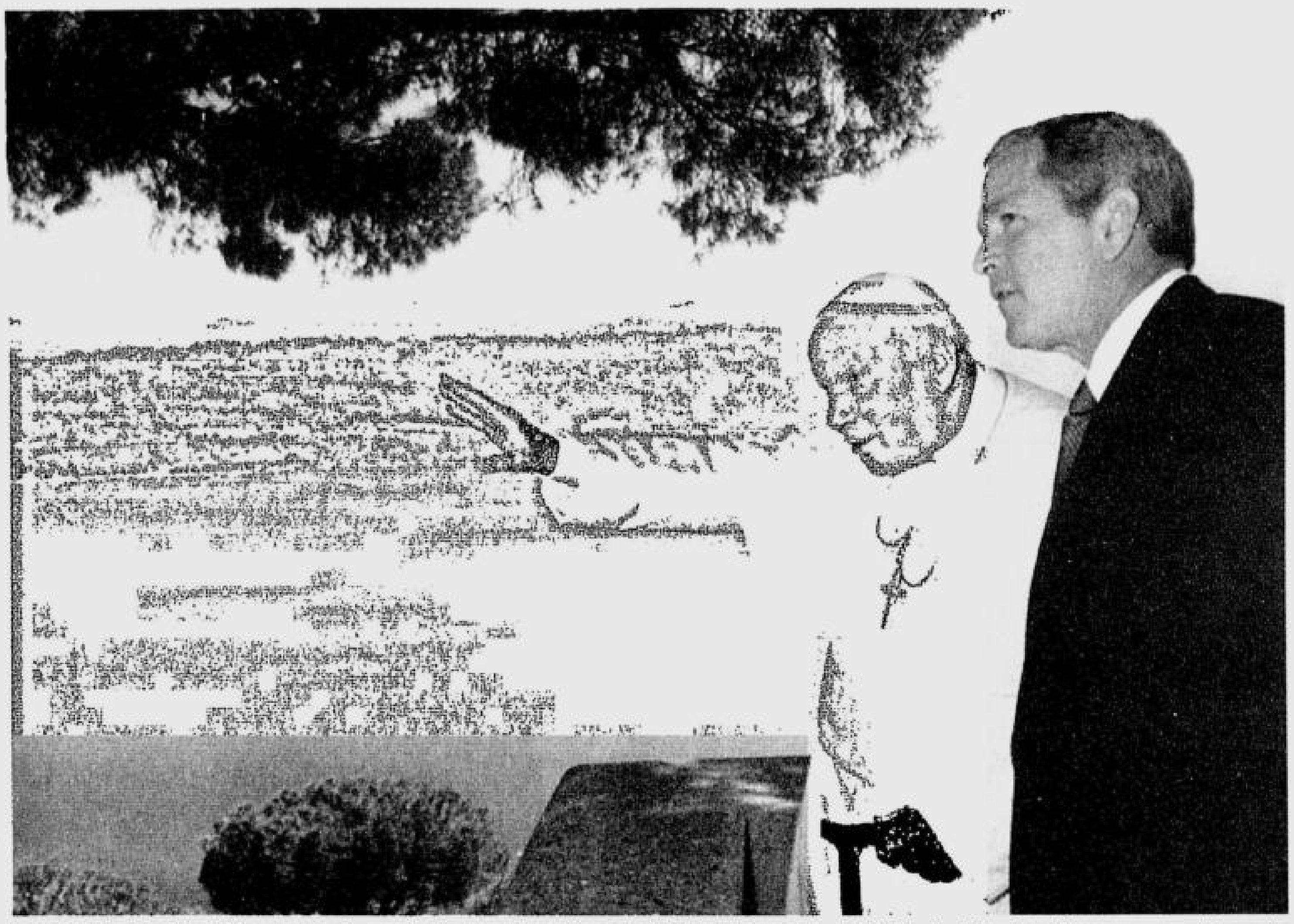
The two groups have at times in their 1,000-year history clashed over territory. But decades before independence in 1948, they united to oppose their common foe—the British.

They began drifting apart after the British left, in part because of rising nationalism among Sinhalese, who believed their superior numbers gave them the right to rule. Ethnic clashes erupted in 1958, 1977 and 1983.

The 1983 riot was the bloodiest: human rights groups have said that 2,000 to 3,000 Tamils were killed by Sinhalese mobs. The rioting was sparked after an ambush on 13 soldiers by a fledgling Tamil rebel group in northern Sri Lanka.

Many young Tamil people fled to the north to join the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which is seeking an independent homeland in the north and east. Over 850,000 Tamils also fled Sri Lanka to a dozen foreign countries and 800,000 more people, mostly Tamils, have been displaced within their own country.

Though not all Tamils embrace the Tigers' extreme solution, many feel they are denied opportunities by the Sinhalese, who dominate the government and military. *AP*



POPE John Paul II (left) gestures from a balcony as he talks with US President George W. Bush at the Pope's summer residence in Castelgandolfo, northern Home July 23. The Pope warned Bush of the "devils" of stem-cell research using embryos, upheld the right to life and stressed the dangers of globalization.
REUTERS

Pope overwhelms visiting Bush

ROME—Pope John Paul II's hands shook as he welcomed President George W. Bush to his summer residence here, but his hold on the US leader's awestruck attention Monday never wavered.

Bush, arguably the most powerful political leader in the world, struggled to describe just how moved he was by the frail Pontiff with the soft voice during their roughly half-hour private meeting.

"I'm not poetic enough to describe what it's like to be in his presence," the President said later during a joint press conference with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters the visibly nervous President was "more reserved than usual" during his "moment of awe." "It's a rare moment in life when you greet the Pope, even when you're president," he said.

"It was a moment I was looking forward to because of his profound impact on the world," said Bush.

"He's an extraordinary man who is, by virtue of his leadership and his conscience and his presence, has not only affected political systems, but affected the hearts and souls of thousands of people all around the world."

The President declared he was not surprised by the Pope's denunciation of embryonic stem cell research—even as Bush has been wrestling with the decision of whether to federally fund that process.

The President said his administration had been "unusually deliberative" in trying to sort the difficult matter but again denied that political calculations played any role.

"It is an issue that, on the one hand, deals with so much hope, hope that perhaps through research and development we'll be able to save lives. It's also an issue that has got serious moral implications," he said. *AFP*

Keep region nuke-free, Asean tells 5 powers

HANOI—Southeast Asian governments appealed yesterday to the five recognized nuclear powers never to unleash their ultimate weapons in the region and to refrain from sending nuclear material through their national territories.

The United States, China, Russia, Britain and France have been reluctant to give a commitment not to use their nuclear weapons against one another in the region covered by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The five powers have so far agreed only not to unleash their nuclear weapons against any of the 10 Asean nations.

China has agreed to ratify the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) but with certain modifications, while nuclear-powered India said in May it would honor the pact.

The nuclear powers feel that giving the undertakings demanded by Asean would be dangerously unprecedented, officials said.

"Basically what Asean will ask the nuclear five is to be flexible in the consultations. We would like to narrow down the differences in two matters—the scope of the treaty and NSA," Asean spokesperson M. C. Abad said.

Negative Security Assurance (NSA) is a provision in the SEANWFZ treaty that requires the nuclear five not to threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Southeast Asian nations or against one another within the region.

At the end of a two-day meeting in Hanoi, Asean foreign ministers appealed once again to the major powers to accede to the treaty.

They will raise the nuclear issue during security talks with their counterparts from the European Union, China, Russia and the United States on Friday. *AFP*

UK firm to dislodge thumb-text messaging

LONDON—Text messaging on mobile phones is all thumbs. A British company believes the best way to get the other eight fingers involved is by going soft.

After sneak peeks at New York's Museum of Modern Art and the IT Expo in France, ElectroTextiles Co. Ltd. is marketing a flexible, plug-in keyboard this year for mobile phones and personal digital assistants.

Although similar devices are already on the market, this one uses the company's ElekTex fabric, a soft, water-resistant material that can receive and transmit electronic impulses without traditional wiring or circuitry.

The fabric turns keyboards into bumpy placemats that can be folded up and slipped into a pocket, or act as a wraparound cover for the device they're attached to.

The soft keyboard is the first in a line of products that will use ElekTex. Also on tap: squishy mobile phones that conform to a pocket and survive a drop onto the sidewalk, and a smart car seat that automatically adjusts to the proportions of its occupant.

Chris Chapman, co-founder of ElectroTextiles, isn't worried about debuting ElekTex in a niche already crowded with keyboard attachments made by Palm Inc., LM Ericsson and Motorola Inc.

He's confident his device will be embraced by mobile phone users tired of pecking away at a telephone pad. At about 28 grams, it's light—and it's flexible. *AP*

THE CASKET carrying Katharine Graham is carried into the Washington National Cathedral for a memorial service July 23. Pallbearers include former defense secretary Robert McNamara, broadcast executive Barry Diller and Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida democrat and Graham's brother-in-law. REUTERS

Graham funeral draws US political, business elite

WASHINGTON—Political and business leaders Monday flocked to the funeral of Katharine Graham, a towering figure in US journalism whose Washington Post unearthed the scandal that led to the resignation of a president.

Microsoft chair Bill Gates, investor Warren Buffett and celebrity journalist Barbara Walters served as ushers, while former secretary of state Henry Kissinger was among many who delivered personal tributes.

Vice President Dick Cheney, former president Bill Clinton, his wife New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani were among some 3,700 mourners at the Washington National Cathedral.

Graham, who died July 17 in Idaho following a fall at age 84, was praised as a standard bearer for freedom of speech, a mentor for aspiring women journalists, a gracious Washington hostess and a loyal friend.

"The Washington Post was a relentless critic of many aspects of the administrations in which I served. Yet this seeming paradox was overwhelmed by the admiration and affection I came to feel for Kay as a person," said Kissinger.

Amid tension in Washington over US involvement in Vietnam, Graham telephoned to invite him to a movie, Kissinger recalled. "The movie audience was truly startled when the lights went up and they saw us sitting together," he recounted.

"Her place in this country will not be filled," said Kissinger, who was national security adviser and secretary of state to president Richard Nixon.

The Post's reporting on the Watergate scandal, which ultimately led Nixon to resign, brought "a new recognition of the crucial role of an independent, incorruptible and energetic press, and to a valuable re-education of the American people in the meaning of our Constitution," historian Arthur Schlesinger said.

There was laughter when Schlesinger noted that "Deep Throat"—the still unidentified government source who was key to the Post's Watergate coverage—might well be among the mourners.

Graham was a shy, 46-year-old mother of four when she became publisher of the Post, after its former publisher, her husband Philip Graham, committed suicide. *AFP*

China rules US-based scholar a Taiwan spy

BEIJING—A US-based Chinese sociologist was convicted yesterday of spying and sentenced to 10 years, her defense lawyer said.

Gao Zhan's conviction in a case closely watched by Washington came four days before an official visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Gao immediately applied for medical parole, said her lawyer, Bai Xuebiao. He has previously said she suffers from heart ailments.

In court, Gao spoke in her own defense at least eight times, Bai said. He had said before the one-day trial that she would argue that prosecutors had failed to prove the spying charges.

Bai said the sentence imposed by the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court was more severe than he had expected.

"For me to be disappointed is useless," he said.

Gao is one of five Chinese-born academics or writers with US ties detained in the past year in an anti-spying crackdown.

The detentions have strained relations with Washington and unsettled China scholars abroad.

The US Embassy said it had no immediate reaction to Gao's sentence. An embassy spokesperson yesterday said that Chinese officials had refused a request to let a US diplomat attend the trial, saying that because Gao was a Chinese citizen, the American government had no right to send an observer.

Gao, 39, is a researcher at the American University in Washington who holds permanent US resident status.

She was accused of helping an American business professor, Li Shaomin, who was convicted July 14 of spying for Taiwan.

Gao's husband, Xue Donghua, expressed surprise at the verdict.

GAO Shan in an undated photo with her son Andrew. REUTERS

He said that because of US diplomatic pressure and the impending Powell visit, he had expected his wife to be cleared and released.

"I think they decided to do this to show their hard part to the US government. I think they want to tell the US government that they are not listening to what they're saying," Xue said by telephone.

Gao was detained Feb. 11 during a family visit to China. Her detention caused a diplomatic uproar because Chinese officials also temporarily held her 5-year-old son,who is an American citizen. without notifying the U.S. Embassy as required by treaty. *AP*

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Boy's captors demand ₱5M

By Kathy Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Kidnappers of the 11-year-old son of a Chinese-Filipino businessman have reportedly demanded P5 million in exchange for the boy's freedom, police authorities said.

Senior Supt. Hiram Benatiro, city police chief, said the kidnappers reduced the ransom amount after the parents of Ryan James Yu told them that they could not afford the initial demand of P50 million.

He said he received reports that the parents were still negotiating with the abductors to further lower the amount because they could not raise the P5 million immediately.

Sources said Ronnie and his wife Zenia were willing to pay P1 million in exchange for the release of their only child.

Ronnie owns a lending business. He and Zenia are also into real estate.

Benatiro said the couple was hesitant to coordinate with the police after the kidnappers told them not to seek their help or else the boy would be harmed.

Motorcycle-riding men seized Ryan James, a Grade 5 pupil of the St. Francis of Assisi School in Peace Valley, Barangay Lahug, while he and a family helper, Joel Bation (not Joel Concepcion as earlier reported) were walking to school about 7 a.m. Monday.

One of the kidnappers pistol-whipped Ryan James in the head when the boy tried to fight back. He was unconscious when he was transferred to a waiting white Kia Pride car in Barangay Sudlon, about 100 meters away.

Witnesses told police that the boy's head was bleeding.

Benatiro said Zenia had told police investigators that the kidnappers handed a piece of paper to Bation before they fled to Sudlon.

The note stated the P50-million ransom demand, a warning not to coordinate with the police and the number of a mobile phone where the kidnappers could be reached.

The victim's parents called up the number written on the note a few hours after the kidnapping. That afternoon, the kidnappers returned their call at their house to start the negotiations.

Benatiro said he was informed by investigators that the ransom amount was lowered to P5 million yesterday morning.

Supt. Jonathan Miano, chief of the Regional Investigation and Intelligence Division in Central Visayas, said a crisis management committee was created to supervise the intelligence monitoring of the case and the operations.

At least four police units and the National Bureau of Investigation have been tapped to go after the kidnappers and rescue the victim. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/25/01

ROUNDUP

Honest janitor awarded

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The city government has cited a woman janitor who found and returned $10,000 to an Indian at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport recently. Florita Mondoyo, a native of Barangay Tagburos here, also received a P5,000 cash reward from Mayor Dennis Socrates for her honesty. Philippine Airlines gave Mondoyo a round-trip plane ticket to visit her child and parents here, while Superferry awarded a lifetime free ticket to any of its ships. The Department of Tourism also gave a cash reward. Mondoyo was promoted to a permanent position at Naia.
Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Letters from the Left?

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Two businessmen turned over to Maj. Alex Asuncion, Western Command public information officer, letters from an alleged leftist group demanding protection money. The demand letters said the group, called Rebolusyonaryong Makabayan (Nationalist Revolutionary), would collect P100,000 monthly or "deliver a grenade" if the addressee did not pay. Asuncion said the message was written in red ink on a Grade I paper sheet and bore no signature. The letters, sent through the post office, could just be the work of extortionists, said Asuncion.
Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

9 fall in drug raids

CALAPAN CITY—Nine suspected drug pushers were arrested in a series of raids conducted by the police here. Supt. Romeo Ricardo, Oriental Mindoro police chief, identified the suspects as Jose Guavez Sr., Maritess Suarez, Avelino Mercado and Alberto Gallardo, all of Sitio Villa Pag-Asa; Camilmil, Milar, Jose and Willar, all surnamed Capirena, of Tibag; and Carlo Alcala, of Calero. A total of 900 milligrams of a substance believed to be shabu (methampethamine hydrochloride) was confiscated from them.
Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gang leader slain

NAGA CITY—Police shot dead a suspected leader of a kidnapping syndicate after he tried to explode a grenade during his arrest on Saturday, Camarines Sur police director Supt. Leocaldo Santiago said. The suspect, Juanito Maganes, did not resist arrest at his house at Barangay Goyudon, Bato town, Santiago said. But when they were 50 meters from the house, Maganes pulled out a grenade from his pocket and tried to explode it, Santiago said. This prompted Insp. Hansel Marantan to shoot the suspect, who was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Another police team arrested another suspected gang member, Villamor Tique.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Slain rebels identified

CALAPAN CITY—Police have identified the two rebels killed in a clash between the New People's Army (NPA) and government troops last week after their bodies were turned over by the Southern Luzon Command's Task Force Banahaw. Supt. Romeo Ricardo, Oriental Mindoro police chief, identified the fatalities as Ricardo Gonzales, 40, alias Ka Arman and Andoy, of Barangay Cagulong; and Lyn Marie Tamboon, alias Ka Diana, 19, of Barangay Cabillan, both in Bulalacao town. Ricardo said the two rebels were part of a 30-member NPA group that clashed with a unit of the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion on Tuesday in Sitio Tumbaga, Barangay Panaytayan in Mansalay town.
Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 fishermen missing

TABACO CITY—Using a helicopter, authorities have intensified search and rescue operations for four fishermen who have been reported missing since July 5 in the waters off Catanduanes facing the Pacific Ocean. Missing were SPO1 Nathaniel Dorado, Alex Bonto, Roberto Begino and Miguel Burce, all of this city, who were on board the MB John Oliver. Coast Guard Petty Officer Crisanto Sy Jr. said fishermen on board the MB Earl last saw the John Oliver on July 11 near Virac town. The John Oliver had reportedly developed engine trouble.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoro killing probed

CALAPAN CITY—Gov. Bartolome Marasigan has ordered an investigation into the fatal shooting of a farmer in Bongabong town on June 24. Constancio Gadon, 63, of Sitio Bagong Pag-asa, Barangay Morente, Bongabong, was reportedly killed in a crossfire between government soldiers and New People's Army rebels. Marasigan said he was informed by Army officers in Roxas and Bongabong that their troops were attacked by the rebels, prompting them to fire back and hitting Gadon. Janet Barrientos of the human rights group Karapatan-Mindoro said Gadon was shot from behind and that a soldier hit one of Gadon's sons, Greg, with a rifle butt.
Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Troops, MILF rebs clash on eve of talks

COTABATO CITY—A day before government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) negotiators are scheduled to meet in Kuala Lumpur for the second round of formal peace negotiations, rebels and soldiers clashed in Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

Army Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said two soldiers were wounded in the 30-minute battle on Monday.

Ando said soldiers of the 37th Infantry Battalion were responding to civilian reports on the sightings of armed men in a remote village in Datu Piang when they were ambushed by suspected MILF rebels.

Wounded were Pfc. Roger Calabroso and Pfc. Randy Clanera.

In nearby Barangay Pidtigulag in SK Pendatun town, Army Special Forces and rebels also figured in a shootout on Monday morning.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said there was no encounter but only military operations against Moro rebels who have been observing a cessation of hostilities since the resumption of peace talks in June.

"They have been attacking us left and right," Kabalu told the INQUIRER. He said the matter would be brought up during the negotiations in Malaysia.

"There is an existing ceasefire. Both sides are armed and if they meet, surely they will fire (at) each other," Kabalu said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

434 dengue cases listed in Western Mindanao

By Alexander Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A total of 434 cases of dengue fever have been recorded in Western Mindanao since January. Four of the patients have died.

Despite the statistics, health officials are insisting that only a dengue outbreak, not an epidemic, has occurred.

The Department of Health's Center of Health Development said the victims were as young as 4 months old. Those who died were children below 5 years old.

In Sorsogon province, dengue fever has afflicted 34 persons, one of whom died, according to Maita Mortega, coordinator of the Provincial Dengue Prevention and Control Program.

The lone fatality was recorded in Bulan town.

Dr. Rogelio Silapan, Zamboanga City health officer, said during a dialogue with the city council last week that although most of dengue cases were registered in the city, "this is not yet of epidemic proportions."

Silapan said only four cases were reported in January, but the number increased when the rains came in May.

Comparing the incidence with last year's figure, Silapan said dengue cases increased by about 500 percent, from three to 165 cases in May, from four to 157 cases in June, and from 18 to 62 cases up to the second week of July.

In Sorsogon, the cases could increase in August to September, the peak season for the spread of the disease, Mortega said.

From July 18 to July 23 alone, the number of persons affected rose from 29 to 34, an increase of one person a day.

Measures

Lourdes Labiano, health director for Western Mindanao, said measures have been drawn up to address the problem of dengue fever, an acute infectious viral disease that usually affects infants and young children.

In a report to Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat, Labiano identified Tumaga as the barangay with the most number of cases, followed by San Jose, where swamps have become the breeding ground of dengue-carrier mosquitoes.

Other affected villages were Talon-Talon, Campo Islam, Sta. Maria, Sta. Catalina, Baliwasan, Canelar and Labuan.

Silapan appealed to the residents to keep their surroundings free from stagnant water and tall grasses as this was the only solution to stop the outbreak.

"Fumigation is not the permanent answer but cleanliness in the surroundings," he said.

He warned that a dengue epidemic might hit the city again, like what happened in 1998 "Our resistance to this kind of disease is already at zero level," he said.

Upon the initiative of Councilor Milabel Velasques, the city council asked for the procurement of more fogging machines as part of the anti-dengue drive.

It also endorsed a proposal for a long-term effort to make Zamboanga City disease-free through a sustained and coordinated education campaign focusing on cleanliness, sanitation, proper awareness and correct medical management of common diseases.

In Sorsogon, the Task Force Dengue has administered a "vector surveillance" by examining dengue-conducive areas and teaching preventive measures.

The provincial health office said a dengue task force should be formed in every municipality and an information campaign should be launched in every barangay. *With a report from Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

QUAKE MEMORIAL TOOTS SOBERANO

Angel Villaralbo and other members of the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club headed by lawyer and INQUIRER correspondent Delmar Cariño plant over 200 pine tree saplings at the Busol Watershed in Baguio City to commemorate those who died during the 1990 earthquake.

RAPE AND PLUNDER OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE!!!

"The cement industry provides another interesting example when price deregulation and import liberalization are not enough to promote competition. Having a history of a government-sponsored cartel in the industry, a high weight-to-value nature, high transportation and handling costs which offer natural protection against imports plus the fact that there are no real substitutes for cement (lumber is more expensive), the industry was able to engage in tacit price fixing as it has increased its prices continuously since 1999 in a simultaneous manner amidst a situation of excess supply, overcapacity, and weak demand."

Philippine Institute of Development Studies
Page B-4 Manila Bulletin, July 8, 2001

AN URGENT APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY
PRES. MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Your Excellency, at the height of the Asian Financial crisis, LA FARGE, CEMEX, BLUE CIRCLE and HOLDERBANK (**Big Four** global cement players) acquired **92% of the Philippine cement industry.** The Big Four, together with other multinationals now control 93.2% of Indonesian plant capacity, 56.2% of Malaysia,36.5% of Korea and 35.6% of Thailand.[i]

Immediately after the Big Four consolidated ownership of the Philippine cement plants, cement prices skyrocketed by 115% in 1999 (From **P45 per bag in 1998 to P97 per bag in 1999**) despite low demand. Now the current price is **P145 per bag!** This, despite the fact, that cement is made mostly of indigenous materials which are our natural resources.

While the Filipinos are charged with the unconscionable price of **P145 per bag of cement**, the Big Four were exporting millions of tons of Philippine-made cement to other countries at **P35 to P40 per bag!** [iv]

With their global capacities, network and financial might, the Big Four can certainly toy around with the current miniscule Philippine market of 11 million tons per annum. Relevant statistics are as follows:

World Rank	Company	Home Country	Market Capitalization[ii] (US$million)	Cement Capacity[iii] (Mt)
1	Holderbank	Switzerland	9106	90m
2	La Farge	France	8386	82m
3	Cemex	Mexico	5801	65m
4	Blue Circle	UK	5257	45m

While the Filipino people can see the impact of oil, gas, electricuty and water directly in their bills and pump prices, increases in cement prices are invisible to ordinary Filipinos. These cement price increases show up, eventually in the price of low-cost houses, rental space in buildings, less kilometers of farm to market roads, high cost of tolls, less of the much needed public infrastructures (public school buildings, bridges, etc.). As a result, the cement producers in the country are free to equate their interests with national interest (by citing loss of jobs/investments/local taxes) without generating much in the way of grassroots opposition.

We condemn the continuing price increase of cement implemented in a harmonious fashion amidst excess supply and overcapacity in the industry. During the past 4 months cement prices again increased by 30%.

We ask your Excellency's help to conduct an impartial investigation of **Cement Producers, Importers, Traders and Retailers** for possible abuse of monopoly powers and restraint of trade practices commited against the Filipino people in flagrant violation of our laws and Constitution.

Prosecute those found guilty of these trade malpractices!

LOWER THE PRICE OF CEMENT & OTHER CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS..... BY DOING SO, WE WILL:

- GIVE HOPE TO THE ASPIRATION OF MILLIONS OF HOMELESS FILIPINOS TO HAVE A HOME!

- GIVE FULLFILLMENT TO THE DREAM OF MILLIONS OF FILIPINO FARMERS TO HAVE FARM TO MARKET ROADS!

- MAXIMIZE THE SCARCE RESOURCES OF GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING THE MUCH NEEDED PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT!

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[i] Barrie Cook/Intercem, Projected 2001 capacities.
[ii] Merrill Lynch Research, prices and exchange rates at 17/08/2000
[iii] Merrill Lynch Research
[iv] In Year 2000, local cement industry exported 35 million bags of cement.

Gloria to honor pact with rebels

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will honor the peace agreement reached by the Estrada administration with the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P) and the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

To enforce the agreement, the President will soon issue an executive order creating a Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

"The President is honoring the peace agreement signed in December in Don Salvador Benedicto town by then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara and Nilo de la Cruz for the RPM-P," Golez told reporters here Saturday.

Golez, who heads a panel formed by the President to review the agreement, said his group was finalizing a report to the President that included a draft of the executive order.

The RPM-P is the political arm of the RPA-ABB. The bulk of its forces is in Negros Occidental.

The RPM-P and RPA-ABB was formed in the mid-1990s by rebel leaders led by De la Cruz who broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army over ideological differences.

Golez said the Macapagal administration would also honor the commitment to grant P500 million in development fund for projects in areas identified by the RPM-P as its "strongholds."

The projects will be implemented over three years, according to Golez.

A big portion of the fund will go to Negros Occidental, he said, where projects jointly identified by the government and the RPM-P and RPA-ABB will be implemented by concerned government agencies.

Golez said the government would also honor the granting of permits to carry firearms to 100 RPM-P and RPA-ABB members "for security reasons."

It will also grant amnesty and allocate P20 million in re-entry funds for RPA-ABB members, he said.

Golez said he would expect a more positive outcome once the government and the RPM-P resume their peace talks. "The negotiations with the RPA-ABB is not as complicated as the one with the CPP-NPA," he said.

Baguio prepares for new migrants

BAGUIO CITY—An inter-agency intelligence sharing council is preparing the Cordillera for a new wave of migrants from Mindanao where military operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits are ongoing.

The council also asked the local government here to contain any anti-Moro sentiment that the migration might trigger.

Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, police regional director, who chaired Friday's Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Council session, said the wave was the likely consequence of combined military and police assaults on the bandit group that continues to hold at least 20 remaining hostages.

This resort city hosts over 5,000 mostly Maranao migrants, many of whom had fled war-torn provinces in Mindanao since 1976. Mindanao migrants supposedly number close to 9,000 all over Northern Luzon.

Gil said the police were not too concerned about Abu Sayyaf remnants blending with the rest of the migrants.

"There is the possibility that Abu Sayyaf members will try to blend (with the community). They have relatives here, I am sure. Many of the refugees will probably come from Basilan and Sulu. That is likely," he said.

"But the police are very cautious about fueling an anti-Muslim sentiment. That is not the direction people should take. I know how people will immediately suspect Muslims, so the police will be more concerned about toning down remarks against them," he said.

Early this month, Baguio police held a suspected member of the Moro National Liberation Front but released him after a brief interrogation.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

WANTED: SURVIVAL KIT

Pinoy OFWs, seamen sing the blues

BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

"AKYAT Barko!" Sometimes when a ship docks at a port abroad, sex workers board the vessel to offer their services to lonely, homesick sailors. Often, many of these sailors are Filipinos.

"There are seamen who cannot resist these, particularly after months of separation from their loved ones," said one Filipino seafarer.

"However, some do not get girls because they think about their families; they do not want to become sick, and they want to keep their money."

Another sailor worried about the changing climate, storms, and the possibility of fire in the high seas "because there is no place to flee from these."

"*Baka magkasakit ako* (I might get sick)," added another sailor.

A third was anxious about "what happens to my family and what stupid things they get into." Their situation was risky; would they ever return to their families? They prayed a lot ("*hanggang langit*").

The land-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) feared delayed salaries ("quite often in Saudi," said one) and bouncing checks, the possibility of not returning to the Philippines because of war breaking out in West Asia, and the strict laws in some Islamic countries.

One worker helped six women employees escape from employers who maltreated them.

These are just some of the salient points raised in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), conducted by a group led by Dr. Florence Macagba Tadiar for the Women's Media Circle Foundation Inc., among 42 male seafarers and land-based OFWs.

All participants were from Northern and Central Luzon.

The FGDs were held in San Fernando City, La Union, and in Quezon City.

Objectives

The project sought to determine the sexual behavior/practices and attitudes of OFWs when abroad, knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and related problems, and attitudes toward infected persons.

It would draw recommendations from the OFWs on measures to promote their health and that of their families, and prevent diseases.

It aimed to list ideas for messages and materials to be included in a survival kit and, as well, activities that would prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV-AIDS among the OFWs.

"One thing that perhaps is missed by our policy-making officials is the importance of helping these OFWs to prevent HIV-AIDS and STI," the report said. "Already, the statistics show a large percentage of HIV-positive Filipinos among OFWs."

As of March this year, the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center reported that of the 1,480 HIV cases reported since 1984, 387 (26 percent) were OFWs, and many of them (37 percent) were seafarers.

Heterosexual contact remained the predominant mode of transmission.

Many of the respondents were aware of the facts about STD and HIV-AIDS, while some had misconceptions about transmission and prevention of infection.

They were fearful of infecting their wives and children upon their return home, but this did not prevent some from engaging in extramarital activities while abroad.

Once they were on land, the behavior and attitudes of the seamen were no different from those of the land-based workers.

But the seafarers felt they were at a disadvantage, that their situation was more risky, being more vulnerable to the hazards at sea, such as storms and accidents.

When their ship docked, the seamen bought phone cards and then had a good time in the ports. The more cautious just stayed in the ship, kept themselves busy, chatted with companions ("*kwentuhan*"), and spent time in prayer.

Sexual life

The two groups shared information about their sexual life abroad, the experiences often being similar. Some of the responses bordered on the risqúe, evoking images from bold Filipino movies before the recent, latest clampdown.

For example, they would change positions during intercourse or watch bold movies on video to stimulate sexual activity. During the early days, when there was no video, they would look at pornographic pictures, follow the various positions shown, and then play with themselves.

Sometimes the Akyat Barko girls the Pinoys used brought them materials and instruments to enhance sexual pleasure or prolong erection, such as *bolitas*, concorde, Indian warrior, silicone, *balahibo*, *pilikmata*, and cream preparation.

One said only the Filipinos used *bolitas*, placed there by themselves or by Filipino doctors and nurses as a "sideline."

Upon returning home, however, great was the disappointment of these men when their angry wives demanded that they remove those little balls from their sexual equipment that caused them so much pain during sexual intercourse.

Some of the married men had a live-in partner in the work area, while others would look for a "sexy and attractive Filipina" and try to establish a relationship with them.

"*Siyempre, kailangan ng katawan natin 'yon* (but of course, our bodies need that)," said one. Other comments were "Normal *lang*, even if you have a wife at home" and "life would be boring, the loneliness would be too much to bear (without women)."

The men would drink beer or ginseng to heighten sexual pleasure, and to make them and their partners "happy" and thus "forget problems."

More dangerously, some used drugs, including the women, who would initiate the sexual act. Intake of Pharmaton and other vitamins was believed to energize the couple.

Sometimes it is the women who would pursue the men and—would you believe—give them flowers, "contrary to what is practiced in the Philippines," the report said.

One respondent claimed some women would look for other partners even after just giving birth.

If the women did not understand English, sign language was used to negotiate the price. Not all of them played around, as there were those who were faithful to their wives back home.

Some of the respondents also admitted that they would resort to "*Maryang Palad*" (masturbate). But the seafarers denied that they engaged in same-sex relationships in the ship.

How did the respondents feel about certain sexual practices, such as the use of instruments? Opinion was divided. There were those who found it degrading: "*pangit*," "*masagwa*," "*kabawasan ng kakayahan ng lalaki*."

Others were more sanguine: "Normal, okay *lang*, *libangan lang*, to avoid being hotheaded." Even after working late at night ("*puyat*"), one becomes energized after sex, can work better ("*ganado*") or is happier ("like change-oil").

One respondent believed that "to avoid getting sick, just ("*Maryang Palad*")."

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Peso, stocks tumble one day after 'Sona'

(From page A1)

eigners sold P218.59 million worth of stocks and only bought P212.17 million.

The peso hit an intraday low of 53.60 and averaged 53.552 against the dollar. Volume was thin at $36.2 million compared to $110 million on Monday.

The Indonesian rupiah, on the other hand, surged 10 percent while the Jakarta stock market rose 2 percent following Wahid's fall.

Rolando Pineda, research head of First Orient Securities, said the overnight slump of US stocks also soured Tuesday's trading at the local exchange.

Amid worries over poor corporate earnings and the weakening US economy, the Nasdaq Composite Index of technology stocks fell 40.81 points to 1,988.56, breaching the 2,000 level for the first time in two weeks.

The Dow Jones index of blue-chip industrial stocks also fell 152.23 points to 10,424.42 while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 19.82 points to 1,191.03.

Roberto Cano, a stock analyst at BPI Securities, said the PSE index would fall further if it did not retrace its break below 1,370.

"We're looking at a trading range of 1,270-1,300 if the index fails to go beyond the 1,370 level," he said.

Mixed reaction

Even so, Ms Macapagal's speech drew mix reactions from analysts and brokers.

Harry Lui of Summit Securities said the President outlined the reforms needed to put the Philippine economy back on its feet.

"But it's not a tomorrow-morning fix. If we start moving instead of talking, it can be done," Lui said.

But doubters abound in the Philippine financial markets.

"Investors are skeptical over how the government intends to finance projects outlined by the President in her speech," said KGI Securities vice president Fritz Aclan.

"While her goals are doable, interest in the local stock market remained flat due to doubts over the government's ability to fulfill its promises," Aclan added.

Stock analyst Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the market was taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"The market needs more convincing. Right now we have problems from abroad and the peso's direction is still a major concern," Vistan said.

Analysts said Ms Macapagal's speech contained no surprises on her economic agenda, which centered on providing jobs, housing, food, and education to the poor.

"I guess people expected too much from the President. They were expecting more concrete measures," said fund manager Vanessa Lim of UCPB Trust, which handles over P30 billion.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal urged Congress to speed up the passage of bills to strengthen the financial system. The pending economic bills she wants passed include measures to simplify the tax system to broaden the collection base and the implementation of an anti-money laundering law.

Ms Macapagal said the government would continue its drive to help farmers benefit from the coconut levy fund.

Investigate banks

She also denounced the speculative activity in the currency market that has severely weakened the peso in recent weeks.

To curb speculation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas laid down penalties for banks aggressively trading in foreign exchange, ranging from a P30,000 fine to suspension of certain market transactions.

A high government official said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had also ordered BIR Commissioner Rene Banez to investigate whether banks found speculating against the peso had paid the appropriate taxes.

"The government is really serious on going after these speculators. Aside from the penalties to be imposed by the BSP, the BIR would also run after them for any tax liabilities," said the official who asked not to be identified.

According to the official, Camacho suspects that these banks not only made money from speculative attacks on the peso but also cheated the government of much-needed revenue.

The BIR, according to the source, would run after the same banks that the central bank was also investigating. The BSP earlier said it had found more than 10 foreign and local banks violating its foreign exchange policies.

The central bank has threatened to cut by half to $5,000 the limit that banks and their clients can buy without the required documents.

A week ago, the peso fell to a day low of 54.335 to the greenback but aggressive intervention by the BSP brought the currency back to P53.71 and even stronger to 53.15 on Friday. ***With reports from Clarissa S. Batino, AP, and Reuters***

'One vote and you're out'

(From page A1)

Still up for grabs are the defense, foreign relations, environment, trade and commerce and blue ribbon committees.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was earlier offered the blue ribbon committee, was playing coy. "I can live without a committee," he said.

Osmeña said there were more than enough committees to spread around.

He expressed optimism that they could entice Sen. Robert Jaworski into joining the majority group because of the latter's ties with Revilla. Jaworski is married to Revilla's daughter.

Jaworski disclosed that he and his father-in-law had yet to talk.

"I offered my hand of reconciliation to him, but he ignored me," Jaworski said of his father-in-law in jest.

A matter of time

But opposition senators said it was just a matter of time before they could capture the Senate leadership.

"It's near," former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

"They really have to be kind to us," Sen. Edgardo Angara interjected.

But Sen. Renato Cayetano assured that the PPC was solidly behind Drilon.

President Macapagal shrugged off the opposition's threat to oust Drilon next month.

"Their revamp? It's within their power," the President said in a dzMM interview.

Drilon was Ms Macapagal's personal choice to head the Senate.

The opposition, who fielded Pimentel against Drilon, has slammed the President for alleged meddling in the Senate leadership row. It vowed to give her legislative program rough sailing in the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, the horse trading for the top posts has also started.

Sources in the PPC-dominated "Sunshine Coalition" that was forged by De Venecia said that backroom haggling had been going on for weeks to settle the chairmanship of at least 48 regular standing committees.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. has bagged the chairmanship of the powerful committee on appropriations, a post that his late father Rolando Sr. occupied in the 9th and 10th Congresses.

Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr., after being designated House majority leader, will automatically assume the chairmanship of the committee on rules.

As a general rule, second and third termers will act as chair of the committees but premium has been placed on his or her participation in the impeachment of ousted President Joseph Estrada and Edsa II.

As part of its concessions to the Eduardo Cojuangco-backed Nationalist People's Coalition, which is not aligned with the PPC, the NPC was said to have been allotted 16 committees.

Spice Boys

Tipped to bag other powerful posts are members of the Spice Boys, which staunchly opposed the previous administration and played a vigorous role in the election of De Venecia as Speaker.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri is expected to be named committee on franchise chair while Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers is likely to get the top post in the committee on accounts. Andaya is also a member of the Spice Boys.

Another Spice Boy Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval opted not to take any chairmanship but will nevertheless be the alter ego of his peers because he may be appointed senior vice chair of Andaya, Zubiri and Barbers in their respective committees.

Another staunch Estrada critic, Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo I, is expected to be named to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal while Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay has reportedly bagged the chairmanship of the committee on national defense.

The erstwhile committee on transportation and communications has been split into two.

Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar, who is on his second term, is being eyed to head the committee on telecommunications. He is a former National Telecommunications Commission head.

In yesterday's first reading of the bills filed, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas suggested that the reading be deferred until after the committees were constituted.

The presiding officer, Deputy Speaker Emilio Espinosa, explained that the committees had already been constituted and what was only needed to be resolved was the membership of the committees. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

Gloria: I know . . .

(From page A1)

ample, of the P20-billion agricultural (modernization) budget, P12 billion is already in the budget and P8 billion will come from the agri-agra bonds," she said.

As for the P20 billion for housing, she had earlier said that P11 billion would come from Pag-Ibig, P6 billion from the Government Service Insurance System, P3 billion from the Social Security System.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is not impressed.

Pimentel called Ms Macapagal a "President *de Bolada*" for making many promises.

Pimentel said over Cebu City's dyLA that Ms Macapagal was the female version of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who was once called "Speaker de *Bola*" because of his propensity to make promises.

"Both make a lot of promises that are difficult to meet," the senator said in Cebuano.

To those who said that she gave targets too difficult to meet, Ms Macapagal had this to say: "They wanted bold moves. I gave bold moves. Now, what more do they want?"

In another interview, this time with dzMM, the President lashed out again at the critics of her Sona.

"How do you start if you do not say what you want? Didn't they want to know the direction? I gave the direction and now they will say that I am just making promises," she said.

Aside from outlining her projects and identifying the sources of funding, the President said she gave a timetable for accomplishing them.

"For example, I asked Congress to pass a law allowing agricultural lands to be used as collateral (for bank loans). For housing, I asked Congress to create a Department of Housing. For our IT (information technology), multi-media convergence, Internet privacy and security, a Department of IT," she said.

"I asked for a Securitization Law and Personal Equity Retirement Act for capital development. There is also a need for a law to implement a gross income tax system."

Not an impossible dream

The President said her Sona was not an impossible dream.

"My friends, I carefully studied everything I said in my Sona and the sources of funding have all been identified. Our people are looking for direction, (so) that is the direction that I gave. What you want—jobs, housing, education and food—are also what I want (for our country). So let us all be united and work so that we can attain our goals," she said.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government would be able to meet its budget deficit targets despite the President's ambitious poverty reduction program.

"We have not changed our projections. We are really very committed to keeping it (the 2001 deficit) within P145 billion and next year we hope to take it lower to P130 billion," Boncodin said.

She said some of the projects were already funded in the 2001 budget and others would be funded in the 2002 budget to be submitted to Congress in two weeks.

Rehash

Former allies of Ms Macapagal said her Sona was a mere rehash of the Sona delivered by her predecessor, deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"She is so Erap (Estrada) in every way except for her style," said Nathanael Santiago, Bayan Muna secretary general.

Liza Maza, who will represent Bayan Muna in the House of Representatives, said Ms Macapagal's approach would not lift the Filipinos out of poverty.

"These are mere piecemeal solutions that will not really solve anything," she said.

Crispin Beltran, another Bayan Muna representative, said no matter how good the President's speech sounded, social equity would remain a dream for Filipinos for as long as the government continued pushing for free enterprise, globalization and privatization.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said: "Ms Macapagal is Mr. Estrada trapped in a woman's body" with her "super and grandiose promises to the poor."

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz described the President's Sona as "plain acrobatics for charity and dole-outs."

But in San Pablo City, Fr. Philip Atienza, social action director of the Diocese, said the Sona impressed him.

"Our country will have direction if 60 percent of it is implemented," he said.

Msgr. Gerry Bitoon, convenor of Kompil-II in Laguna, said he was overwhelmed by the "well-crafted, delivered, upbeat tone" of the Sona.

"It is big but the question is where to get funds for all those plans?" he asked.

No fear

Despite the disenchantment of her former allies and the supporters of Estrada, Ms Macapagal said she was not threatened by the possibility of "Edsa IV" uprising.

"That Edsa IV is not in the mainstream (of society). The mainstream is united," the President told dzBB.

The President said the political system had been consolidated with her administration firmly in place.

She also cited the control of her allies of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the support of governors and mayors.

The President said her Sona was proof that there was unity as only a "fraction" of the 100,000 expected protesters showed up at the Batasang Pambansa where she delivered the speech.

"The nationwide strike they threatened to hold did not push through. That is why I am saying that they are not in the mainstream anymore. So I have no fear of it anymore. Our government is consolidated and we can focus on working for the attainment of what I said in my Sona," the President said. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Real soap: Mom . . .

(From page A1)

vendor and resident of 17 Esguerra St., Barangay South Triangle for her only child, Vergel, nicknamed Boboy, finally ended after the boy was presented to her by the police last week.

The meeting between mother and son took place in a fast-food restaurant and was arranged by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police.

The mother broke into tears as she took her child into her arms, Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG head, said yesterday.

Gualberto said that Boboy had been passed on to two families before he was recovered.

The mother's nightmare started last November when a stranger who identified herself as Ernalyn Castro showed up at her house and applied as a maid.

Santos declined to take her in. But she allowed Castro to spend the night after the latter claimed she was suffering from a slight illness.

When she woke up the next day, Santos was shocked to discover that Castro had left and had taken Boboy with her.

Santos reported the matter to the police and the case was handled by the CIDG's National Capital Region office.

The police made a breakthrough when they arrested Castro, who went by the aliases Irene Abrea, Rogiebie Ypanto and Gingging Artades, on July 4.

Castro, a native of Barangay Bagtic in Mabinay, Negros Occidental, is currently under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development because she is a minor. She claims to be 17 years old.

When Castro was arrested, Boboy was not with her.

Attempts to locate him were futile.

Last Thursday, the kidnapping was featured on the GMA-7 program "Extra, Extra" wherein the distraught widow was interviewed and the picture of Boboy was shown.

In Barangay Licao-Licao, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, a couple was watching the television program.

Spouses Carlito and Liberty Daria had been taking care of a boy who was given to them by their cousin Florida Soleta.

No one knew the boy's identity.

He was brought to Soleta's house in Cubao, Quezon City, by Soleta's former maid, Gingging Artades (who was actually Castro).

The maid worked for Soleta in August but she left after a few days. Months later, the maid came back, with the boy in tow. She left at once, leaving the boy behind.

When the maid (Castro) failed to return, Soleta decided to bring the child to the Darias in Bulacan.

When the couple saw Boboy's picture flashed on "Extra Extra," they knew it was the same boy they had been taking care of. They decided to give him back to his mother and called the police.

Just like in soaps, there was a happy ending to this story.

Mother and son were reunited and the bad guy (in this case, the bad girl) was caught.

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ZAMBOANGA/DAVAO vice-versa	P2,388	P2,089	
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MANILA/KALIBO vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
MANILA/DUMAGUETE vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
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Opposition trains guns on Mike A

(From page A1)

dent Macapagal.

"It's a serious allegation," he said. "If it was a (court) case, he is the principal respondent. And there's a witness pointing to him," Angara said.

Rodrigo accused Arroyo and three others of receiving money in exchange for recalling the President's veto of a telecommunication franchise.

Angara said opposition senators will submit appropriate resolutions so that the Senate blue ribbon committee can conduct an inquiry into the scandal.

But the inquiry will have to wait. Mr. Arroyo was scheduled to leave for the United States last night for a two-week vacation.

Ms Macapagal dismissed speculations that her husband plans to evade the investigation.

Mr. Arroyo's accuser, a grade school and high school classmate of the President, and one of her closest friends, had said in an earlier radio interview that she resigned from her Palace post after learning that Mr. Arroyo—in a July 17 radio interview—accused her of receiving bribe money.

That bribe money was supposedly in exchange for a franchise bill that would have given a firm reportedly owned by Jaime Dichaves to put up a clearing house for cellular phone companies.

Rodrigo said Mr. Arroyo's interview provoked her to go public to accuse him and three of his friends of pocketing the money. She was being made a "scapegoat," she claimed.

In a radio interview yesterday with Joe Taruc, Ms Macapagal was asked if she had talked to Rodrigo after her allegations about Mr. Arroyo came out in the open.

"After that (interview with Mike Arroyo), she called me up and swore at me. He (referring to Mr. Arroyo) wants war, she said. I don't think he wants war, I said. I think he is doing that because he was asked about the text messages," Ms Macapagal said.

Later in an interview with Tina Monzon-Palma, the President said that Rodrigo was "so angry" at the time of their telephone conversation.

She also said that her conversation with Rodrigo was taped.

Woman with Rodrigo

Turning the tables on Rodrigo, Ms Macapagal proposed that the Senate investigation should start with the woman whom Rodrigo accompanied to the office of Presidential Legislative Liaison chief Gabriel Claudio.

She noted that Rodrigo, despite her allegation that it was Mike Arroyo who received the money, had refused to name the person who supposedly handed the money to her husband.

Ms Macapagal then raised the question concerning the woman whom Rodrigo accompanied to Claudio's office to check on the status of the franchise bill.

That woman, according to Ms Macapagal, was a consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

"For one thing, that girl that was brought to the office of Gabby Claudio is a consultant or something or other of the DOTC," she said.

"Right there and then, that has to be investigated because the DOTC was the one who recommended for the franchise to be vetoed, so this girl was going against DOTC policy. And besides, what business does she have to follow up for a private firm?" Ms Macapagal said.

The President was apparently referring to a Malou Nuñez, whom Rodrigo had identified in an earlier interview as the woman whom she accompanied to Claudio's office.

"That should be investigated because she works for the DOTC..." the President reiterated.

Not credible alibi

In Lucena City, the militant Sanlakas yesterday said the US trip of Mr. Arroyo is not only about taking a break but also to evade the heat generated by the accusations against him.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, took President Macapagal to task for allowing her husband to leave.

He said the President has no right to call on the citizenry for a renewed crusade against graft and corruption as she had stated in her State of the Nation Address.

"GMA should prevent her husband from leaving. The moral course of action for her to do is to immediately submit him to an independent congressional investigation instead of just giving him an instant acquittal," he said.

Fortaleza also called on Congress to conduct an honest-to-goodness independent investigation.

"It should be their first official business of the day to erase all clouds of suspicion on the moral fitness of Malacañang to lead the people. And if not, there's really no difference to speak of between Erap's time and the present," he said.

Paranoid

"It is now clear why Mr. Arroyo was too determined with his destabilization plot conjectures. He's going to use it as a comfortable excuse for any accusation of wrongdoing against the administration. Neat but not a credible alibi."

"And for that, he becomes the most paranoid Palace occupant," he added.

Fortaleza also scoffed at Mr. Arroyo's claim that only a simple "misunderstanding" triggered the exposé.

Fortaleza challenged whistle-blower Rodrigo to stand firm in her exposé.

Pastor Noel Baybay, Sanlakas-Southern Tagalog chair, has dismissed the claim of Malacañang that Mr. Arroyo has no intention of "fleeing" because of the absence of any formal criminal complaint against him.

"No matter how you look at it, his leaving for the US could also be interpreted as a form of escape from the planned congressional probe. Is it not a sign of guilt?" he said.

"Or his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, has probably ordered Mr. Arroyo to lie low for a while till the heat of the exposé simmers down," Baybay said in a statement.

Baybay recalled that during the time of deposed President Estrada, "Erap transformed the government into one big syndicate."

"But during the present administration, it seems that Mr. Arroyo is now turning it into one big business enterprise," he added.

Erap . . .

(From page A1)

Arroyo.

"All those proposals of hers, it all comes down to money. If she doesn't have money, then she can't do anything. It is difficult to make promises if you don't have any money," Estrada said in an interview at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he has been detained for two and a half months.

Despite his criticism, Estrada said: "I was happy about some of the projects like the housing, the hectares (for land reform), the 1 million jobs. They were among the programs that I was working on before I stepped down as president."

One of Estrada's key allies, Senate Minority Floorleader Edgardo Angara, said that he would oppose any move to pass new taxes to fund Ms Macapagal's proposals.

Expression of concern

Estrada's lawyers yesterday also criticized President Macapagal for her alleged "invidious bias against the Estradas" in her Sona.

"Clearly, the most powerful official in the land, who can appoint and promote officials, is seeking to influence this Honorable Division," the defense lawyers said in a paper filed with the Sandiganbayan.

In her Sona, the President reiterated her policy to "support the fair and speedy trial of all the accused involved in the cases against former President Joseph Estrada."

"If there were times that I showed concern for the personal circumstances of the former President, it is not a sign of diminished determination to see justice done. Rather, it is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our *masa* who have continued to identify with his personal circumstances," the President said in answer to criticisms that she appeared to have soften up on Estrada having visited him twice and having made available to him comfortable accommodations.

"How nice it would have been if she had said that she was urging this Honorable Division and all other courts all over the land to deal with every case speedily and fairly, and not only with one case involving her political adversary," they said in their four-page "expression of concern" regarding the President's speech.

Slap on Ombudsman

They noted that speeding up the trial of the Estradas was like "asking the Division to slow down on other cases."

They also said that the President's intention to amend the charter of the Ombudsman so he could accept the services of private prosecutors was a "direct slap" on the Ombudsman.

"She should also go slow about the private prosecutors getting involved here, particularly in an address to legislators," former Sen. Rene Saguisag said in the "expression of concern." ***With reports from Donna Cueto, AFP***

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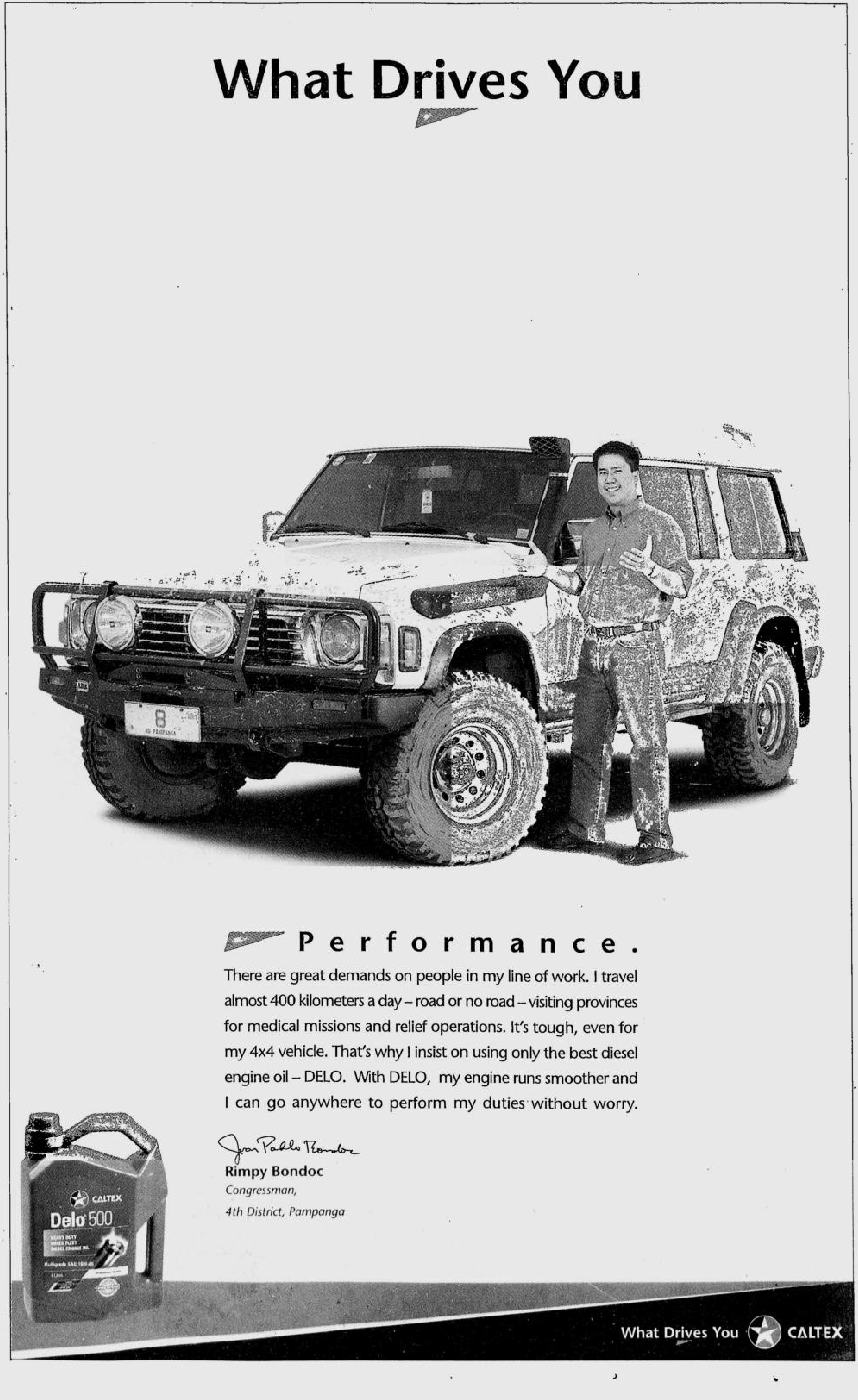

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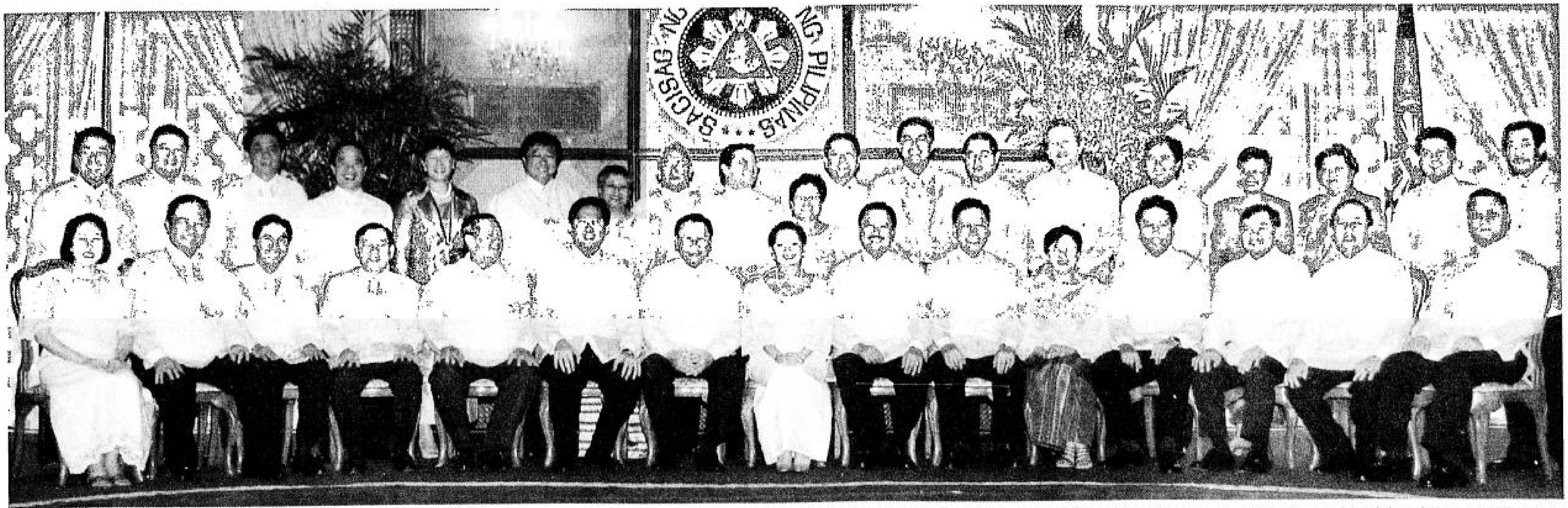
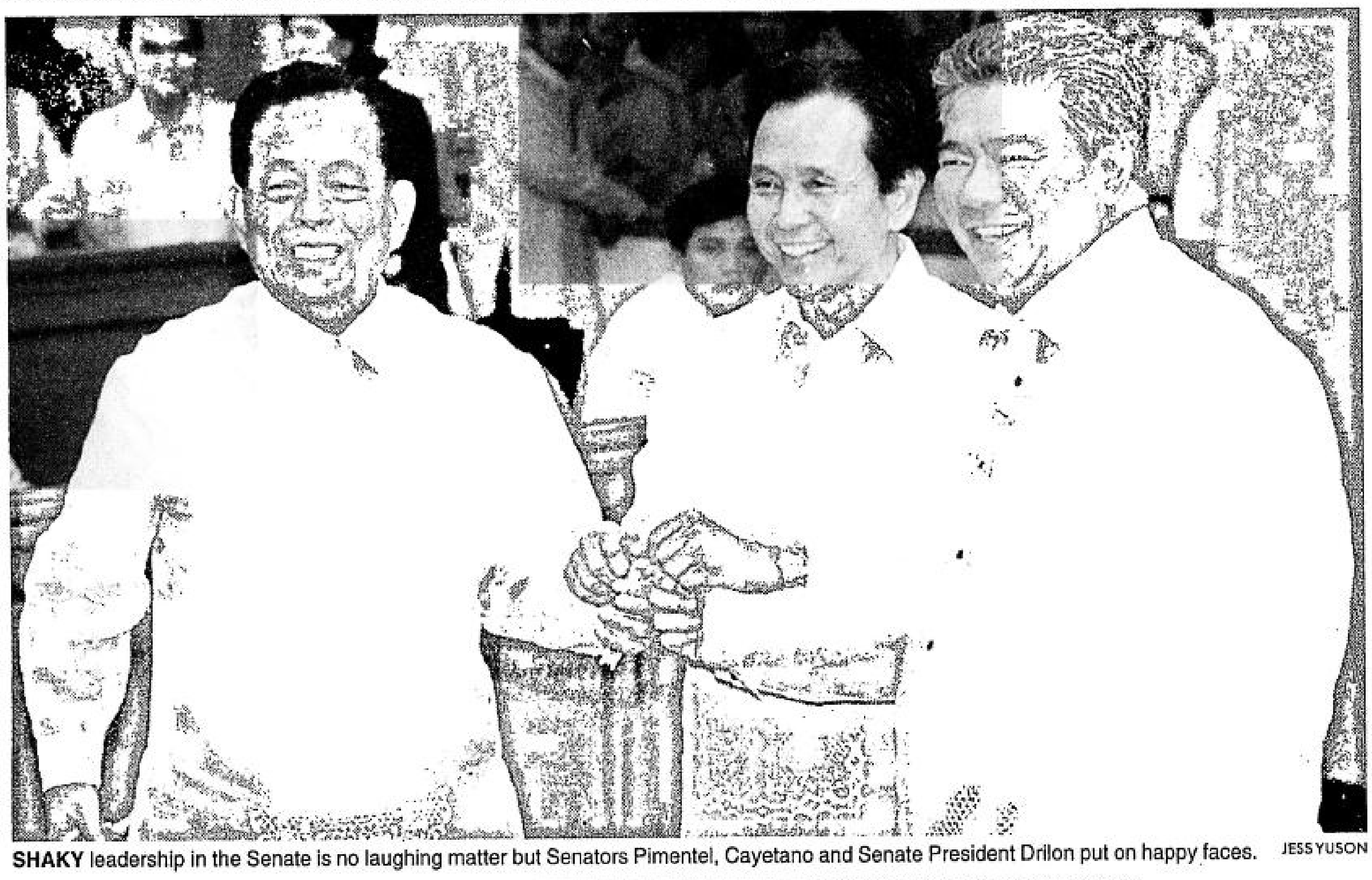


ALL THE PRESIDENT's (center) men and women pose before a Cabinet meeting Tuesday: Standing from left: MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos, Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz Jr., presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Legislative Liaison chief Gabriel Claudio, Presidential Management Staff chief Victoria Garchitorena, Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Presidential Anti-Poverty Commission chief Teresita Deles, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Dante Canlas, Presidential Adviser on Agricultural Modernization Lito Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Joey Rufino, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Presidential Adviser on Regional Development Paul Dominguez, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., Department of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro, Appointments Secretary Marita Magpili-Jimenez, Housing on Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Mike Defensor, and Press Secretary Noel Cabrera. Seated from left are: Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong, DECS Secretary Raul Roco, Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

JOAN BONDOC

Scenes behind the Sona



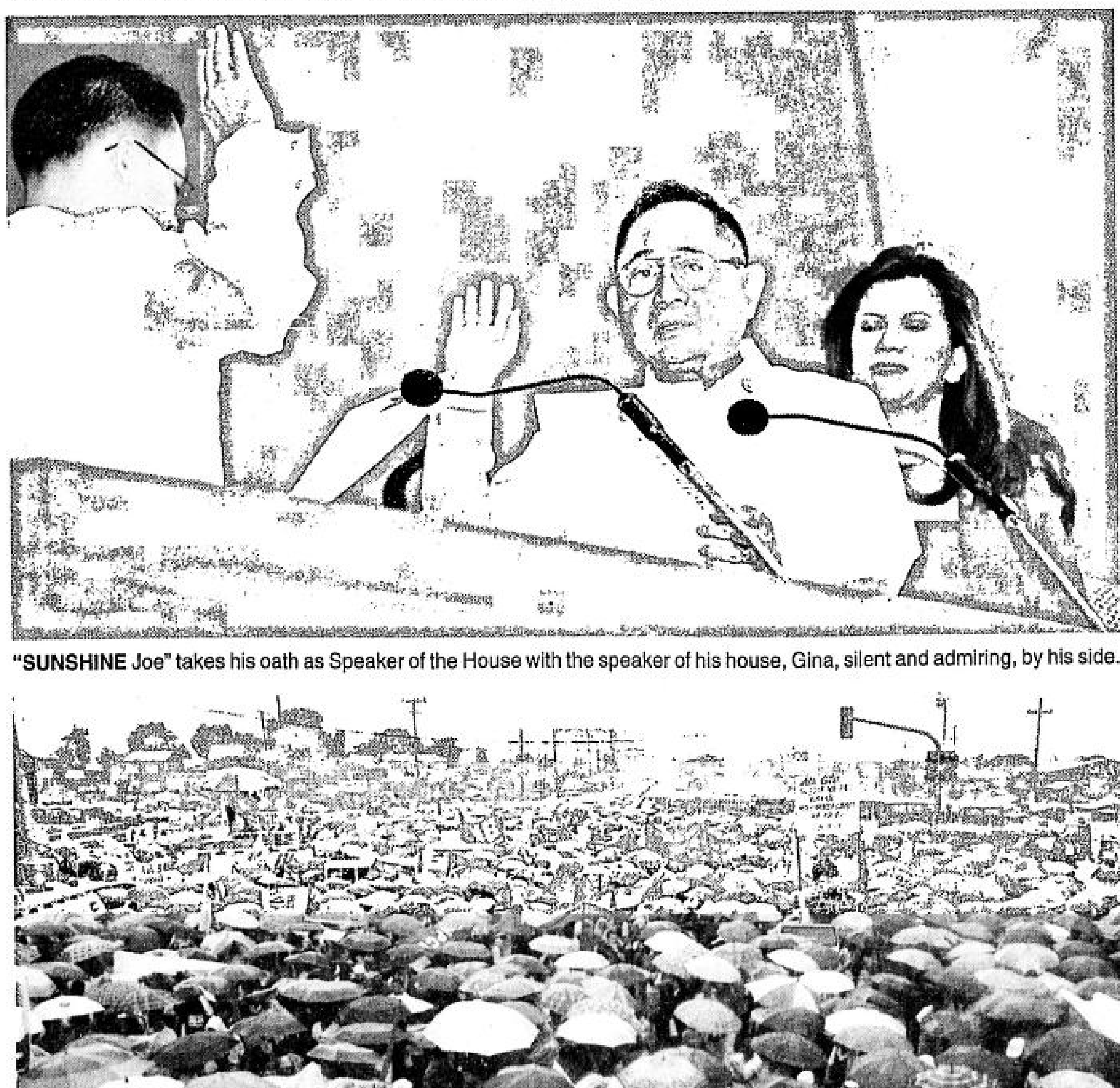
SHAKY leadership in the Senate is no laughing matter but Senators Pimentel, Cayetano and Senate President Drilon put on happy faces. JESS YUSON

JESS YUSON

COUNT 'em in, too: Opposition Senators Sotto, Ejercito, Angara and Aquino-Oreta.

JESS YUSON

THE MEGA Sharon Cuneta, now a senator's spouse, busses top Senate honcho, Franklin Drilon.



VAL HANDUMON

"SUNSHINE Joe" takes his oath as Speaker of the House with the speaker of his house, Gina, silent and admiring, by his side.

mga kagyat na kahiling
demokra

THE MARGINALIZED led by party-list Bayan Muna Representatives Crispin Beltran and Satur Ocampo are still on the sidelines.

EDWIN BACASMAS

NOT exactly singing in the rain as the protesters carried on under a sea of umbrellas outside the Batasan Pambansa. DENNIS SABANGAN

GINOGOYO
MAMAMAYANG
API-KDD

THE GOVERNMENT is out in the streets in the person of housing chair, Mike Defensor, to listen to the grievances of the people. EDWIN BACASMAS

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship, Men's Semifinals at 9 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: A&P Tennis Classic Event Finals at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

CYCLING: 2001 Tour De France Highlights - Stage #15 at 1:30 p.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA B.C. Open Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB Beach Volleyball - Italy Open, Women's 3rd Place Game and Final at midnight (r) on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

No PBA in SEAG—Barrios

Ecija MBA host; Racela, others fined

Standings	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	2
Andok's San Juan	8	3
Negros	9	4
Cebuana Lhuillier	8	4
FedEx Laguna	5	6
Nueva Ecija	2	7
Davao	2	9
Socsargen	2	9

Games Today
(Araullo Centrum Gym, Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—Socsargen vs LBC Batangas
5:30 p.m.—Andoks San Juan vs Nueva Ecija

LBC Batangas and Andok's San Juan aim to keep their lofty perch as they battle separate foes today in the first phase of the 2001 MBA season at the Araullo Centrum Gym in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

Riding the crest of a pulsating 75-74 home victory over the Negros Slashers Sunday, the Blades try to extend their amazing run to six as they shoot for their ninth win in 11 games against the Socsargen Marlins at 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, the MBA cracked the whip anew after it penalized LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela, Danny Capobres of San Juan, Oliver Bunyi of Nueva Ecija and Alwyn Flores of Socsargen with a total fine of P16,000 for their unsportsmanlike behavior in the past week.

Flores got the stiffest punishment with an P8,000 fine and a one-game suspension which takes effect today in their game versus LBC Batangas for hitting John Montalbo in the face with an open hand and elbowing Mat Mitchell, also of Cebuana Lhuillier, last week that led to his ejection.

Capobres was assessed a P4,000 fine for a hard foul on Fedex Laguna's Chris Clay, his third offense this season after similar offenses against LBC Batangas' Stephen Antonio and Socsargen's Aldrich Reyes in past games.

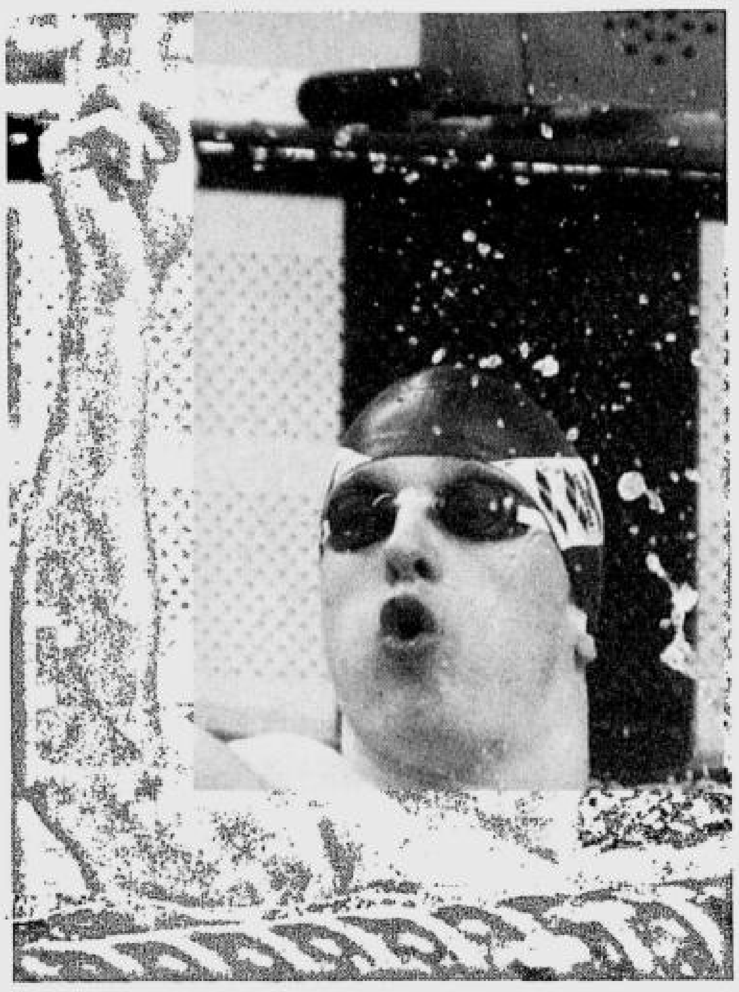
Racela and Bunyi, on their part, were slapped a P2,000 fine each for continuous complaining and elbow-swinging, respectively.

Fight mars China's win

SHANGHAI—A bloody fist fight broke out between the men's basketball teams of China and Lebanon at the Asian Basketball Championship in Shanghai on Monday.

The scuffle was ignited immediately after the Chinese hosts won, 87-76, in a late evening game of the round-robin tournament, said witnesses, including a Reuters photographer.

A Chinese player cut a Lebanese opponent twice in the arm with a pair of scissors, one witness alleged. Another Lebanese was kicked in the head, witnesses said. *Reuters*



AP

WORLD RECORDS

Russian Roman Sloudnov reacts after setting a world record in the men's 100-meter breaststroke semifinal at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, Monday. Sloudnov beat American Ed Moses with a record time of 59.94. Later in the day, Australian star Ian "Thorpedo" Thorpe smashed his own world record in the final of the men's 800m freestyle with a time of 7:39.16.

NBA's highest-paid shooting guard

NEW YORK—The Knicks' Allan Houston now has a larger contract than the ones given to Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Tracy McGrady, Jerry Stackhouse and Vince Carter. Houston claimed he is better than all of them after he signed a six-year, $100 million contract Monday that makes him the highest-paid shooting guard in the league. "I see a lot of faces that look confused, but for me this is all smiles," Houston said. "I promise that New York has not seen the best of me yet." Houston averaged 18.7 points last season, his fifth with the Knicks. Eleven other NBA shooting guards had a higher scoring average. Asked which two-guards around the league were better than him, Houston said there weren't any. "My job now is to make that evident. It's one thing to believe in something and it's another thing to go out and execute it," said Houston, an outside shooting specialist. "I don't think there's anybody better at doing the things that I do." *AP*

By JUNE NAVARRO

HERE'S bad news for the warring parties in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The PBA won't loan its players to the BAP for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games even if the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) reinstate its recognition to the trouble-plagued association.

"We have a standing policy of fielding PBA players only in the Asian Games. Unless that policy is amended, I doubt if that could be accommodated," said acting PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios yesterday at the PSA Forum.

Barrios was actually reacting to insinuations of feuding groups in the BAP—Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal—of forming a team for the SEA Games composed of PBA players.

Barrios said the policy, however, could be superceded once the PBA board votes for a one-time exemption on the lending of its players to the RP contingent bound for the biennial meet.

"But from where I stand, I don't think it's possible. Moreover, the SEA Games coincides with the third conference of the PBA," said Barrios.

The import-laced PBA Governors Cup will begin on Sept. 9, the same day the sports conclave is tipped to blast off.

Meanwhile, the PBA board will convene Monday next week to decide on the fate of Purefoods, which was recently bought by San Miguel Corporation.

Purefoods has to convince six of the nine members of the PBA board in order to stay in the league.

The PBA bars any corporate entity to have more than two teams in the league. SMC owns Barangay Ginebra, San Miguel Beer and Purefoods.

In danger of disbandment, Purefoods will either seek for an indefinite extension or look for a prospective buyer of its PBA franchise now approximately worth P63 million.

"But the problem on the second option lies on whether the board will approve the replacement or not," said Barrios.

Mobiline fights for life

Games Today (Philsports Arena)
5:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

SAN Miguel Beer buckles down to serious business against Mobiline even as Alaska hopes to assert its mastery over Sta. Lucia Realty today at the quarterfinals of the PBA Commissioners Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Equipped with a twice-to-beat edge not to mention their supreme firepower, the Beermen will attempt to use the Mobiline Phone Pals as their springboard to the semifinals in their 5:15 p.m. encounter.

NCAA Today
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—St. Benilde vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (jrs/srs)

Andam deserves slot in RP team

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ALTHOUGH he is not as popular to billiards fans as Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, hardfighting Leonardo "Dodong" Andam last week hogged the spotlight by being the highest-placed Filipino player in the recent Admiral World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales, won by magnificent Mika "The Iceman" Immonen of Finland.

By reaching the quarterfinal round of the $300,000 tournament, 41-year-old Andam showed he is in a class with Reyes and Bustamante. He pocketed $8,500, which is approximately P450,000, for the respectable feat.

Andam's world-class performance in Cardiff is proof enough to prod Philippine billiards officials into making last –minute changes by including him in the Philippine team that will see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur in September. I understand the deadline for the final submission of entries has been extended until middle of next month hence there's still time to make amends. Andam, by the way, won four gold medals in the 1991 SEA Games hosted by Manila which means he's not a stranger in this kind of competition.

Born in Cotabato, Andam is a great shotmaker with a long experience. As a matter of fact, Andam, a Puyat Sports mainstay alongside Reyes, could provide the maturity to the SEA Games team.

***

MJC RELOCATION. Horse racing fans are hoping the owners of the Manila Jockey Club will not repeat the mistake of building stables right inside the oval of their new site in Carmona, Cavite. Many aficionados, especially those at the lower stands, say the stables inside the San Lazaro Hippodrome obstruct their view of the entire race proceedings. Not only that. Aside from being an eyesore, these structures could prevent the new embattled racing stewards from making a clear, honest and accurate judgment of what misbehaving jockeys could be doing while a particular race is in progress, a problem which falls squarely on the lap of the Philippine Racing Commission, now chaired by Andrew Sanchez. Speaking of horse races, I would like to doff my hat to MJC bosses lawyers Alfonso Reyno Jr. and Roberto Reverente for staging a very successful Horseman's Cup, the final jewel of the Triple Crown won by highly favored "Silver Story" recently. For instance, the Triple Crown affair was graced by big shots from the US embassy and the country's most admired and well-known personalities. But what was a suspected big-time bookie doing at the exclusive gathering? Just asking.

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MALATE	BARRICADE KNIGHTS/HEARTBEAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 451 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	GOALKEYS FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MR. ROXY FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
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Oliver chess champion

OLIVER Dimakiling, a member of the De La Salle Chess Team, topped the recently concluded 1st National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Open active chess championship at Egel's Sizzling House, Diliman, Quezon City.

Dimakiling was successful in winning six out of seven rounds and a draw with Diwa's Buhawi Chess champion Roland Salvador in the last round summed up his final score of 6.5 points.

He pocketed a trophy, a cash prize of P7,000 and a round trip ticket for two to Cebu City with accommodations and city tour courtesy of Belgosa Media Systems Inc. thru Active Chess Center of Asia.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	41	.586	–
Boston	56	42	.571	1 1/2
Toronto	47	53	.470	11 1/2
Baltimore	42	56	.429	15 1/2
Tampa Bay	32	67	.323	26
Central				
Cleveland	57	40	.588	–
Minnesota	58	41	.586	–
Chicago	48	49	.495	9
Detroit	43	53	.448	13 1/2
Kansas City	38	61	.384	20
West				
Seattle	72	27	.727	–
Oakland	53	46	.535	19
Anaheim	50	49	.505	22
Texas	40	57	.412	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	56	43	.566	–
Philadelphia	54	45	.545	2
Florida	51	48	.515	5
New York	45	55	.450	11 1/2
Montreal	44	56	.440	12 1/2
Central				
Chicago	57	41	.582	–
Houston	54	44	.551	3
St. Louis	49	48	.505	7 1/2
Milwaukee	43	55	.439	14
Pittsburgh	38	59	.392	18 1/2
Cincinnati	37	62	.374	20 1/2
West				
Arizona	57	42	.576	–
Los Angeles	57	43	.570	1/2
San Francisco	52	48	.520	5 1/2
San Diego	49	51	.490	8 1/2
Colorado	42	57	.424	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 3, Philadelphia 0; Cincinnati 5, Atlanta 4; Chicago Cubs 6, Houston 2; Los Angeles 3, Milwaukee 1; Colorado 6, San Francisco 2; San Diego 4, Arizona 2; N.Y. Mets at Florida, ppd., rain.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Anaheim 9, Baltimore 4; Seattle 3, Minnesota 2; N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 2; Cleveland 2, Chicago White Sox 0; Oakland 7, Kansas City 2. *AP*

Elorde daughter makes boxing debut July 28

RITA Elorde, daughter of the legendary Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, will make her debut as a professional boxer when she battles Marissa Alarde on July 28 at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Elorde follows in the footsteps of Laila Ali, Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, Freeda Foreman and Irichelle Duran, daughters of legendary fighters who are now world celebrities of their own.

Alarde herself is the daughter of a former OPBF champion.

Rita and Marissa are to meet in three rounds.

The fight is an undercard of the comeback fight of Malcolm Tuñacao, who will face countryman Randy Mangubat for the WBC International flyweight crown.

"This is an important step toward getting another shot at the world title," said Tuñacao during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

This will be Tuñacao's first bout since he lost his WBC flyweight title to Pongsaklek Wonjongkam of Thailand last March.

Unlike in Thailand, Tuñacao assured local ring fans that making the weight limit (112 lbs) will not be a problem this time. "I learned my lessons well," he said.

Two other WBC international fights are on tap, with junior flyweight titlist Juanito Rubillar clashing with Japanese Takahiko Mizuno and bantamweight holder Ricky Gayamo tackling Abner Cordero.

Army, Air Force triumph, share football lead

Games July 29
8 a.m.—UA&P vs PCU (Taft)
10 a.m.—San Beda vs Navy
1 p.m.—PAF vs PCU (Dasmariñas)
3:30 p.m.—FEU vs St. Benilde

ARMY and Air Force booters scored contrasting victories Sunday to share the Group B lead with seven points in the 1st Philippine Army-Utilco International invitational football tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

The Armymen banked on the hat-trick of Luis Brillantes to power the Armymen to their second win in three starts.

Yanti Bersales scored twice—in the seventh and 23rd minutes—but it was Ian Araneta who produced the marginal marker in PAF's scary victory over FEU in the 37th minute.

Bernard Muros and Jing Jambre accounted for the two FEU goals.

Dan Padernal slammed in three goals while Bernie Solas and Jian Jeremias chipped in two each to propel the Bedans to their second victory in three games.

Fred Gonzales and Gil Talavera came through for Kaya in its match with PCU (Taft).

Anton stars as MP Team paces races

THE ZED-GULF Oil-MP Turbo Team inched closer to victory in the Shell Philippine Junior Touring Car Championship, the Subic Production race and the SVI Challenge Cup after 2 successful weekends of racing.

Baguio driver and defending champion Carlos Anton took two first places in Subic last July 8 and two second places last weekend in Batangas to head the Production and PJTCC classes, respectively.

MP Turbo's newest find and Celebrity driver Monching Gutierrez topped the afternoon race in Subic to practically wrap up the championship in the Subic-SVI Challenge Cup.

Weekend warrior and pro-photographer Alex Padua virtually closed in on his goal to get PJTCC's class C by winning both races.

San Pablo's veteran driver and team leader Mike Potenciano posted spectacular finishes when he took his first win in the Petron Blaze Super Saloon in Subic and placed a superb second in round 9 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship. The results drew praise from the racing community due to the fact that he had to borrow an engine just to race in Batangas.

"We had engine problems in Subic and weren't able to finish one for Batangas," said Potenciano. "In qualifying, our surplus engine just gave up and in really great sporting tradition, the Ramirezes' lent me an engine for Sunday's race and we were able to finish 2nd in the wet track. We are really lucky and very happy in getting this wonderful result."

Kournikova's agents deny wedding

LONDON—Anna Kournikova's management company denied a British tabloid newspaper report Monday that the Russian tennis star had married ice hockey player Sergei Fedorov.

"No, it's not true," Lindsey Evans, a spokeswoman for the Octagon management company, said. "She's not married."

The Sun newspaper, in a front-page story billed as a "world exclusive," reported that Kournikova married Fedorov in a private ceremony in Moscow. After the denial, the Sun issued a statement saying, "We stand by our story 100 percent." The Sun said only five guests attended the wedding, the parents of Kournikova and Fedorov and Fedorov's brother.

The 20-year-old Kournikova, who has made millions in modeling and endorsement deals, wed the 31-year-old Fedorov at a registrar's office in the Russian capital, the tabloid reported.

The wedding took place sometime during Wimbledon, which ran June 25 to July 9, the Sun said.

Kournikova missed Wimbledon with an ankle injury, which also kept her out of the French Open. Fedorov plays for the Detroit Red Wings of the NHL. *AP*

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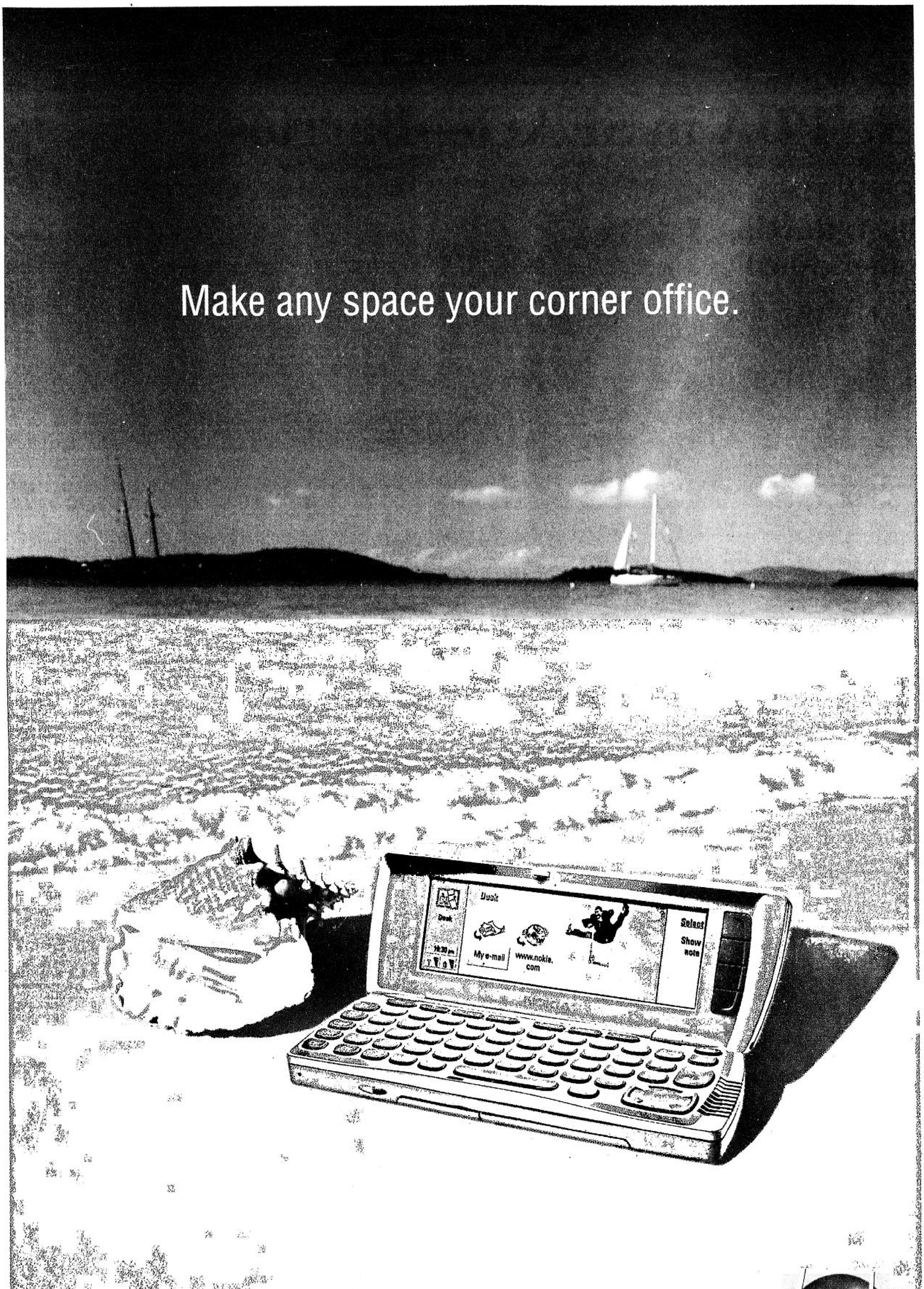

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0995, Series of 2001.

- **Man kills son who had affair with sister** A20
- **Munti wants 50 hectares** A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- **Sampaloc vendors want new market** A21
- **Korean hurt in LPG blast** A21

LACSON

‘I am not evil’

By Fe B. Zamora
Section Editor, INQ7.net

SEN. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson broke his silence and dismissed as “lies, falsehoods and inaccuracies” the charges that he ordered the killing of his wife’s ex-husband, the late Reginald Hill (not Gil, as earlier reported), in the late ’70s.

Lacson, the former chief of the Philippine National Police, also said he has “never stolen anything from anybody, living or dead.”

In a three-page letter to the Inquirer, Lacson also denied allegations by Inquirer Metro columnist Ramon Tulfo that

I AM NOT/ A20

Cops suspect Tadao Hayashi’s lover

By Christian V. Esguerra

INVESTIGATORS are zeroing in on the angle that popular Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi, 62, could have been killed by his alleged lover.

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief, said his men are looking for a man aged 19 to 23 who was seen in Hayashi’s house on Sunday. Hayashi was found dead in his bedroom the following morning.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of the Station Investigation and Intelligence

COPS SUSPECT/ A20

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1894 series of 2001

Man kills son who had affair with sister

By Nelson F. Flores

A 44-YEAR-OLD man was yesterday charged with parricide before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office for killing his 21-year-old son who was said to be having an affair with his own 19-year-old sister.

Eulogio Bacarro admitted killing his son Bryan.

"It was too much," was all Bacarro said after he was charged with his son's killing.

The young Bacarro on Monday died from several stab wounds in his father's house at 4050 Bernardino St., Laperal Compound in Barangay Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Makati City police homicide investigator PO2 Juvenal Barbossa said the stabbing happened while father and son were arguing.

Police said the young Bacarro pulled out a knife but his father managed to wrest the knife from him and used it to stab him repeatedly.

The argument between father and son began when the young Bacarro fetched his sister from his father's house on Monday afternoon, police said.

The siblings, police said, were living in a rented house in Mandaluyong City as husband and wife. But the older Bacarro learned of the incestuous affair and took home his daughter, police said.

The young Bacarro, police said, then went to his father's house to fetch his sister, triggering the argument with his father. The older Bacarro surrendered to police after the stabbing.

He told police that his daughter admitted she was her brother's lover but claimed that he had been raping her since April.

Munti wants 50 hectares

By Nelson F. Flores

MUNTINLUPA City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi appealed to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to allow the city government to acquire control of the 50 hectares of public land covering the New Bilibid Prison to give way for the area's development as a residential community for the poor.

Fresnedi made the appeal yesterday following President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's vow to fight poverty. He said at least 34,700 poor families from Muntinlupa slums would benefit once the Department of Justice approves the city government's proposal.

Fresnedi said each beneficiary would only have to pay an affordable monthly amortization.

"Aside from helping many people, this project will also help rid Muntinlupa of slums," Fresnedi explained in Filipino.

We owe this fellow many bright moments

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FILIPINO boxing immortal Gabriel Elorde first fought in Cebu as KRS Flash.

This was confided to me many years ago by Romy Kintanar, a media star who lived life as though he had just won in a big lottery.

From what he remembered, Romy K. said his father and his uncles, who owned a radio station in Cebu, were the first handlers of the great Flash Elorde.

KRS, indeed, stood for Kintanar Radio Station, explained boxing guru Hermie Rivera, one SRO (standing room only) night at the Funeraria Nacional on Araneta Avenue.

Nobody could be happier than Romy himself, said Hermie, because the jolly good fella lived and enjoyed life as one hell of a feast.

* * *

Do you know that Romy K. was dubbed Prince of Visayan movies during his teens? I asked Hermie.

Was it prince or king? Hermie wondered.

I can't really remember, I said, but he was already a confirmed superstar even before he worked as a tri-media man in Manila.

I first saw and heard Romy K. work as the PBA Man on the Ball and, before I knew it, he also had a radio sports program, he was editing a weekly sports magazine and was later writing a sports column for a daily tabloid before fading out of the media scene.

I got a text message on Sunday saying my friend Romy K. had a seizure and was confined in a hospital in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The first guy who came to mind when I got that sorry information was lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud. The manager of premier boxer Gerry Peñalosa had asked me to track Romy K. after he heard that the man had fallen ill.

* * *

I did try to locate Romy K.

I first heard he was holed up in an apartment somewhere in San Juan.

Next I knew, he had already moved to Cavite.

Then, before I could wonder again, broadcaster Ed Picson, with whom I shared great memories of Romy K. at Dinky's place in Pasig last week, called up on Monday to say our friend had passed away.

Just like that.

I'm writing this with a deep loneliness because Romy was one fellow who would go out of his way to please you.

In fact, he used to come to my place, lugging a bottle of brandy and a bag of *pulutan,* so we could spend the afternoon together.

He would call me up regularly to wonder how I was doing.

Romy also kept wondering how we could come up with a biography of the great Joe Cantada, whom he loved to call the Macho Man.

Romy adored the late Smokin' Joe like a saint.

This is silly but I'm doing this thinking it could go a little way in repaying Romy what he had taught me about the sport of boxing.

Yes, I owe him a lot. I had the luck of having covered several boxing bouts with Romy K. and he so generously imparted to me a wealth of information on this sport he truly cared for.

He gave me a lot of encouragement.

This man, indeed, spread the gospel of gladness.

Of course, other than being a first-class actor in his younger years, a tri-media star later, Romy was also a respected and feared chess player.

Hermie Rivera was right. It will be hard to write an appropriate epitaph for this man who excelled in the myriad things he had dabbled in.

Romy K also sang and danced very well.

He lived life with a legendary zeal. But, above all, he treated friends like they were his true brothers.

When he got sick and found out he could no longer bring joy to them, he stayed away. Far, far away.

Pawnshop owner robbed of P1M

By Philip C. Tubeza

PAWNSHOP owner Prima Punzalan lost P1 million to robbers in Quezon City on Monday afternoon.

Punzalan, 73, of K Ville Townhouse, Sunville subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, and owner of Punzalan Pawnshop, lost P980,000 in jewelry and P20,000 in cash to three armed men who blocked her car on Quirino Avenue, Quezon City, said P03 Diosdado Pedronan of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Pedronan said Punzalan was on board her Honda Civic (UML-728) with her driver Alejo Sadueta and companion Marivic Madera, when the suspects suddenly appeared and blocked the car's path on Quirino Avenue about 5:30 p.m., Pedronan said.

With guns drawn, the suspects ordered Sadueta to get off while they boarded the car.

One of the suspects took the wheel and drove off while the two other suspects took Punzalan's bag.

Luckily for the victims, the suspects decided to let go of the pawnshop owner and Madera. They simply got off the car and walked in Barangay Baesa.

Witnesses told police they saw the robbers board an FX taxi (PXF-384) and drove off toward Balintawak.

'I am not evil'

(From page A19)

his son Ronald Jay Lacson was kicked out of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Lacson said the allegations of his criminal activities in Tulfo's "On Target" column in the July 10,

12, 14, 17 and 19 issues of the Inquirer were lifted from "white papers" circulated in 1995 by then Makati Councilor Bobby Brillante, and in 1998 by Col. Reynaldo Berroya upon his release from the National Penitentiary.

Longer, more detailed, updated versions of the two white papers were also posted on the Internet.

"I am not the demon that Mr. Tulfo and his financier/s want so much to maliciously and viciously portray," Lacson wrote in his letter to the Inquirer. "Mr. Tulfo can go on and on and I am sure he will continue destroying my character and reputation, but I humbly appeal to the readers of your newspaper to be more objective in their judgement."

Sorry

"Lacson is an evil man," Tulfo said in an interview with INQ7.net. "I want him in jail. I would like to encourage people who know Ping Lacson to come out in the open and denounce him."

Tulfo, who once ardently supported Lacson's campaign to

solve crime by executing criminals, said he was sorry he believed Lacson.

"I have a confession to make," Tulfo said from an undisclosed safehouse. "I am partly responsible for creating this monster. I'm running scared. I know the man."

Lacson said he met Alice de Perio-Hill on a blind date arranged by Roger Cuarderno sometime in 1973 in Sunset

Village, Parañaque. At that time, Alice was already separated from Hill, who turned out to have been already married to another woman.

Cuaderno, according to Lacson, would later marry Alice's sister, Emma de Perio.

"It is not true that I met Alice while she was visiting her ex-husband at the headquarters of the Metrocom Police Intelligence Service (MPIS) in Camp Crame," Lacson wrote. "The truth is, Alice never visited Reginald ... since they were already separated at that time after Alice found out she was a victim of a bigamous marriage."

Lacson said he was then assigned to the Central Sector in Camp Panopio on P. Tuazon Street in Cubao.

Convicted

He said Hill was among those convicted in the celebrated robbery-rape case of movie star Merle Fernandez.

Lacson said Reginald and his brother Roberto were driving a Toyota Corolla when they figured in a vehicular accident in April 1978. Roberto died on the spot while Reginald expired at a Las Piñas hospital.

Lacson said the police, hospital and census records are available for verification. "I absolutely had nothing to do with the death of Reginald Hill," he said.

Tulfo said in his July 14 and 17 columns that Hill was "deliberately run over" by a truck a few months after he came out of jail.

Tulfo also said Lacson's son Ronald Jay was kicked out of the PMA.

"The truth is my son resigned," Lacson said, "since he never wanted, much less intended to be a military officer." He "practically forced" Ronald Jay to enter the PMA because "like any PMA alumnus, it has been my dream that at least one of my sons would follow my footsteps," he said.

Tulfo's exposés were apparently triggered by Lacson's charges that Tulfo had received a P250,000 monthly allowance from then PNP Director General Roberto Lastimoso in 1998-1999.

Lacson said that when he became PNP chief in November 1999, he ordered the scrapping of the PNP monthly payola to Tulfo and other members of media.

Inherited

Lastimoso remembers seeing a list of journalists, radio commentators and columnists and their "monthly allowance" when he assumed his post as PNP chief in 1998.

"I inherited that list and I understand it was in support of the PNP information program," Lastimoso said. He said the list was prepared by the PNP public information office, and approved by the PNP chief depending on availability of funds.

He said the approval depends on the PNP comptroller. Lastimoso said Lacson talked to him in 1998 to include the names of PNP reporters in the list.

"I asked the comptroller if we had enough funds, and Superintendent Acop said if it was just 200,000 a month, they could be accommodated."

"It was not my intention to make public (Tulfo's) payola," Lacson wrote. "I was asked the question in a radio interview and it was in my mood at that time to answer in the most candid, truthful manner. Hindsight now tells me the revelation triggered this whole scenario." In an open letter in his column, Tulfo recalled his days as a police reporter covering the MISG where Lacson was assigned.

Power struggle

Tulfo said the clean-cut, boyish graduate from the PMA impressed him. He said they used to go drinking with the late Oscar Beltran in the mid-'70s.

But the friendship, Tulfo said, was based more on professional than personal matters.

"We were not like Chavit Singson and Erap," Tulfo said. "I was covering the MISG. I was professional."

Tulfo's friendship with Lastimoso took another turn when Tulfo, who is the son of a constabulary officer, was adopted as a member of PMA Class 1967. (A member of Class 1967, Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, has called Lacson a "threat to national security.")

When Lacson and Lastimoso figured in a bitter power struggle over the post of PNP chief in 1999, Tulfo took the side of Lastimoso.

Somewhere along the way, Lastimoso said, Tulfo started praising Lacson in his column. "I kept my distance from Mon," Lastimoso said. "We see each other during class meetings, but these are purely socials. We avoid talking about Lacson or my case."

Lastimoso added that he was most surprised to read Tulfo's allegations against Lacson.

Atienza warns diggers

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Monday warned private and government workers they will be arrested if they proceed to dig up roads in the capital without notifying City Hall.

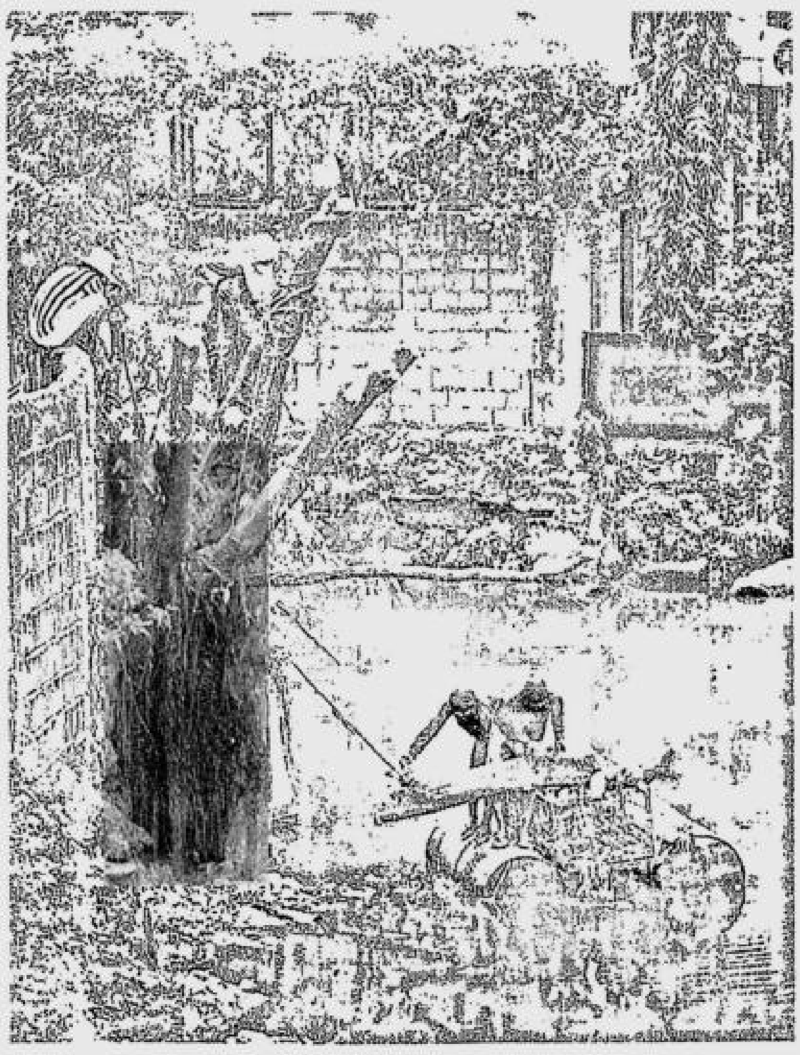
"I don't care if the diggings are being done by a private entity or a government agency such as the Department of Public Works and Highways," Atienza said. "If they cannot show a valid permit from the city government (the police will) arrest the crew and fill up the diggings."

The mayor was particularly upset over an unattended excavation at the corner of San Marcelino and Concepcion streets near City Hall yesterday. He called up city engineer Magdiwang Recato and ordered him to fill up the hole quickly.

Atienza said he was peeved by the "slow pace of work, and in some cases, the absence of activity," in the many excavation sites in the city. He said some excavation works even have billboards bearing his name when they were not even his projects.

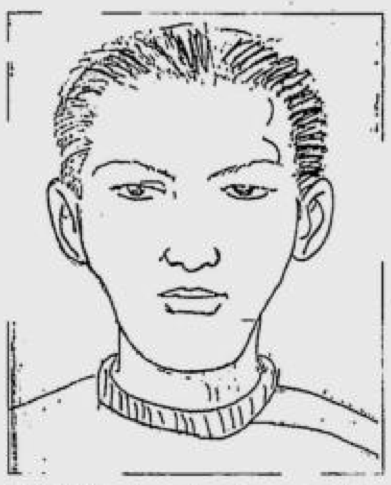
"The companies should not take their own sweet time because in many cases, the job can be accomplished in a few hours," he said.

A project has to be completed within a specified number of days—as contained in the excavation permit issued by City Hall—or the contractors will pay a fine of P5,000 for every day it exceeds the deadline.



THE TRASH, NOT THE TREES ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Workers from the Manila City Hall cut down old trees along Estero de Magdalena near the Reina Regente Bridge in Binondo, Manila, as part of Mayor Lito Atienza's campaign to clean the city's esteros. Some residents, however, complain that the trees do not clog the waterway.



POLICE sketch of suspect in Hayashi's killing.

HAYASHI

Cops suspect . . .

(From page A19)

Division, said the suspect could not have meant to rob Hayashi since the Japanese lost no other belongings except for a VCD player.

Mantele said the suspect, whose police sketch was released yesterday, could be Hayashi's lover.

Police are looking for Hayashi's closest friends to identify the suspect.

Hayashi's neighbor Reynaldo Ortillano told police he saw the suspect in Hayashi's house about 6 p.m. Sunday.

The neighbor said the man was about 5-foot-4, medium built, and fair complexioned.

A carpenter who was hired by Hayashi said he saw the same man in Hayashi's house on Saturday evening.

The carpenter said the man was still in the house when he left at 10 p.m. Saturday.

Mantele said Hayashi was killed between 6 p.m. Sunday and 6 a.m. Monday when his body was discovered by his office assistant Antonio Clet.

The crime-of-passion angle surfaced when police found no signs of forcible entry in Hayashi's two-bedroom bungalow at LD Village in Tala, Caloocan City.

Borromeo said it appeared that Hayashi even entertained the suspect, because two drinking glasses were found on a table in the living room.

Mantele said that contrary to reports, Hayashi could not have been clubbed to death. He said the suspect could have held Hayashi by the head and slammed his face and head against the floor, the wall, or a cabinet.

Police found a blood-stained towel in a drawer in Hayashi's bedroom. Borromeo said the suspect could have used the towel to wipe blood off his hands.

Hayashi's P1.2-million harp was found in another room. Hayashi himself was found wearing a white shirt and green shorts.

Scene-of-the-Crime agents lifted two sets of fingerprints from the crime scene.

Hayashi became popular in the local entertainment scene because of his renditions of popular Filipino songs on his harp.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 25, 2001
James, Apostle

1st Reading:	**2 Cor 4:7-15**
Gospel:	**Mt 20:20-28**

The mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons, and she knelt down to ask a favor. Jesus said to her, "What do you want?" And she answered, "Here you have my two sons. Grant that they may sit, one at your right and one at your left, when you are in your kingdom."

Jesus said to the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They answered, "We can." Jesus replied, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or at my left is not for me to grant. That will be for those for whom the Father has prepared it."

The other ten heard all this and were angry with the two brothers. Then Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations act as tyrants, and the powerful oppress them. It shall not be so among you; whoever wants to be more important in your group shall make himself your servant. And if you want to be first, make yourself the servant of all. Be like the Son of Man who has come, not to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

James, one of the sons of Zebedee, is presented in the gospels as one of the apostles who is very close to Jesus. He was present at the transfiguration and was among the few invited to pray with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. As today's gospel attests, he also shared in the cup that Jesus drank. He was also a person with high ambitions who asked through his mother for a high place in the kingdom. Jesus used this occasion to explain to the apostles the qualities of the new leadership. James took this lesson to heart when he was called to guide the Christian community in Jerusalem through the crucial first years, and became one of the pillars of the early church.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the model of faith and brotherly love you gave us in the apostle James. Grant that we also may follow this example.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Real party in interest—A real party in interest is defined as "the part who stands to be benefited or injured by the judgment or the party entitled to the avails of the suit." "Interest" within the meaning of the rule means material interest, an interest in issue and to be affected by the decree, as distinguished from mere interest in the question involved, or a mere incidental interest. By real interest is meant a present substantial interest, as distinguished from a mere expectancy or a future, contingent, subordinate, or consequential interest. Tested by the foregoing definition, private respondent in this case is clearly a real party in interest. It is not disputed that he is in possession of the lot pursuant to a valid lease. He is a possessor in the concept of a holder of a thing. He was impleaded as a defendant in the amended complaint. Further, what petitioner seeks to enjoin is the building by respondent of a commercial structure on the lot. Clearly, it is private respondent's acts which are in issue, and his interest in said issue cannot be a mere incidental interest. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Ortigas and Co., Ltd. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 126102, December 4, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Kidnappers release victim for P4,800

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

POLICE manning checkpoints on the North Expressway in Bulacan scared off two armed men who allegedly tried to kidnap a businesswoman on Monday.

Florence Arroyo, 27, an aluminum contractor and a resident of Quezon City, was on board her Mitsubishi L-300 with her driver Orlan Sarmiento, when the suspects blocked the van just as they were leaving her place of work at the Bulacan agro-industrial subdivision in Barangay Pio Cruzcosa, Calumpit, Bulacan about 1:30 p.m.

Wearing black bonnets and armed with .38 cal. revolvers, the men ordered Sarmiento to get off the vehicle before they took over control of the van with Arroyo on board.

The suspects drove off toward the North Luzon Expressway but, as they approached the Pulilan exit, they saw policemen manning two checkpoints in Barangay Poblacion.

Apparently gripped by panic, the suspects hurriedly demanded cash from Arroyo, who handed them her day's earnings of P4,800. The suspects then fled.

Distraught, Arroyo called her relatives before she managed to report the incident to the police about 4 p.m.

Korean hurt in LPG blast

By Nelson F. Flores

ALMOST 90 percent of the body of a Korean businessman was burned when a liquefied petroleum gas tank exploded yesterday morning inside his condominium unit in Pasay City.

Moon Kwiyul, 47, a native of South Korea and a resident of Park Avenue Mansion on Park Avenue in Pasay City, is now in serious condition at the San Juan De Dios Hospital after suffering second- and third-degree burns in the body, police said.

Dr. Philip Ocampo, Moon's doctor, said the victim was placed in the hospital's intensive care unit. Investigation showed that the gas tank exploded shortly before 7 a.m. yesterday in Moon's condominium unit on the 10th floor of Park Avenue Mansion. Moon, police said, was cooking breakfast when the gas tank exploded.

SPO1 Joseph Pablo Bocalbos, Pasay City police tactical operations center radio operator, said Moon was alone at the time of the accident.

CADETS beat up their ROTC uniforms with brooms in a symbolic call for the abolition of the military training program. JESS YUSON

ROTC reform vs abolition

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CAMPAIGN for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program has yet to create inroads, but bitter bickering continues among student military groups petitioning for the ROTC's abolition.

On MOnday, a faction led by the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power (MASP) lashed at Abolish!, a nationwide network of youth groups, for allegedly fomenting a "student war" on the campaign to abolish ROTC.

MASP national coordinator Emman Hizon said Abolish! was promoting "division" among student protesters by claiming that the MASP and other student groups had softened their stand on the ROTC issue by pushing for the military program's reform instead of its outright abolition.

"We've been consistent in our demands," Hizon told the INQUIRER. "We want an unconditional abolition of ROTC.

"We've been fighting for this since the beginning. They (Abolish!) came much later and now they're claiming credit and hitting us."

MASP is composed of Akbayan and the Student Councils Association of the Philippines.

But Hizon said his faction does not include Sanlakas.

Abolish! is made up of the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines, National Union of Students in the Philippines, League of Filipino Students, Student Christian Movement, Kalipunan ng Kabataang Kristiyano sa Pilipinas, and Anakbayan.

Hizon also criticized CEGP president Rey Asis for claiming that his faction was willing to compromise with the government for a mere reformation of the allegedly corrupt ROTC program.

"If he's really true to his cause, he should go beyond our groups' ideological differences. We don't need conflict since we're both fighting for the same cause."

Hizon said his group even volunteered to join Abolish!, but was rejected.

"I was willing to form a tactical alliance with them if only to make our campaign stronger."

SCAP secretary general Gari Lazaro said Asis and his group should realize that the campaign against ROTC needs legal strategies more than the usual street demonstrations.

"The abolition of ROTC does not need brainless activism that relies not on well-informed arguments but on slogans, banners, and insults against their perceived political competitors," Lazaro said in a press statement.

The conflict between Abolish! and the MASP faction appeared to have divided students in many universities nationwide.

Hizon said both factions have chapters with entirely different programs in schools such as the University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, Adamson University, and Philippine Normal University.

During Monday's protest actions against the ROTC, MASP presented 100,000 signatures of Metro Manila cadets calling for ROTC's abolition.

Abolish! is organizing a weekly boycott of ROTC classes.

Sampaloc vendors want new market

By Jerome Aning

VENDORS at the Sampaloc Market in Manila whose stalls are facing demolition because of the construction of a Light Rail Transit 2 station want Mayor Lito Atienza to build their relocation site soon.

Tina Testa, adviser of the Bagong Samahan ng mga Manininda sa Sampaloc Market, said City Hall had already received an initial P73 million when it sold the market lot to the LRT Authority last year.

However, Testa said, City Hall has yet to build a new market which the mayor promised to the 162 vendors in the Sampaloc market.

Testa showed the **Inquirer** a copy of the June 6, 200 contract between City Hall and the LRTA, under which City Hall sold the 2,603.10-square-meter market lot to LRTA for P151,463,006.

Under the contract, City Hall would be paid 40 percent of the replacement cost of the old market building, P10,418,259.20, and 50 percent of the cost of the land, or P62,708,679.

The payments were to be made as soon as the deed of sale is executed. The rest are to be paid to the city government as soon as the LRTA receives the title to the three lots on Legarda Street where the two buildings of the 63-year-old Sampaloc market stand.

"What did the mayor do to the P73 million?" Testa asked. "The amount should be enough to build the new market but so far no construction has begun."

She alleged that vendors are being harassed by "goons" who wanted them out of the property, even if there was still no building on the relocation site just across the street.

"The vendors don't want to live amid a climate of fear, they want to be assured that they won't be deprived of their means of livelihood," she added.

Aside from the vendors, the market employs at least 200 workers, such as drivers, stevedores, maintenance crew and helpers.

On Sept. 28, 1999, a memorandum of agreement was signed between Atienza and the vendors' group, wherein the city government promised to build a new market and would not demolish any stall until the vendors were relocated.

The LRTA plans to build a station on the market lot as part of its Line 2 Project, a mass transport system running from Recto Avenue in Manila to Santolan Road in Pasig City.

Nayong Pilipino faces relocation or division

By TJ Burgonio

THE NAYONG Pilipino theme park in Pasay City, the first of its kind in the region, is facing extinction.

The sprawling 46-hectare park might have to give way to progress, specifically infrastructure projects connected to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3.

Already, about 11 hectares of the property have been earmarked for the construction of a new taxiway for commercial airlines that would be using Naia 3 once the terminal starts operations in December 2002.

But Charito Planas, the new executive director of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF), is not giving up the park without a fight.

She is opposing plans to subdivide or relocate the park.

According to an airport official, there are also plans to relocate Nayong Pilipino outside Metro Manila to make way for an international cargo terminal that will service cargo flights in Naia 3.

"The theme park must be retained where it is now," Planas said. "It has been here since the '70s, why should we move it out now?"

But the national government owns the property and NPF only acts as trustee. Which keeps Planas' hands bound tightly.

Planas hinted that the foundation had grudgingly acceded to the government's request to convert 10.8-hectares of the park into a taxiway.

"We can't say no," she said.

But she was not giving the property away for a song. Planas has demanded a minimum of P300 million as remuneration for the property from the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

The money, Planas said, would be spent for the relocation and construction of miniature structures representing the Tagalog, Visayas, Bicol and Mindanao regions that will be affected by the taxiway project.

The replicas, such as those of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's house, Mayon volcano, Chocolate Hills and a Muslim mosque, will also be rebuilt on an open space in front of the park.

Planas has also demanded that the present structures be maintained for the viewing public and passengers, and that the government put off its takeover of the property until January 2002 to give the foundation ample time for relocation.

So far, Miaa officials have not responded to her demands.

Planas also disclosed that former executive director Ines Silvestre had signed a lease contract in 1997 with the group of media tycoon Fred Elizalde for the construction of an amusement park on the site.

Under the contract, seven hectares of the park would be leased to Elizalde's group.

Planas said Silvestre had also signed another contract to lease 11 hectares of the property to private developer Glee Corp. But this was rescinded in 1998 by then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora because it appeared not to have passed thorough presidential review.

To avert the further shrinkage of the park grounds, Planas said she has also rejected Glee Corp.'s proposal to revive its lease contract with the foundation and pointed out that this had already been disapproved by the past administration.

Glee Corp., said to be an affiliate of the Naia 3 operator Philippine International Air Terminals Corp. Inc. (Piatco), had planned to build a huge commercial and entertainment complex. The plan drew protests from conservationists.

Located on MIA Road across Naia 2, Nayong Pilipino is a favorite destination of tourists and locals.

For most school children, the park is their first glimpse of the country's tourist attractions and heritage.

Found inside the sprawling, tree-dotted park are replicas of the country's six regions, which also include Ilocos and Cordillera.

The park is also home to a museum of ethnology, a museum of Philippine and international dolls, an aquarium, an aviary of Philippine birds, a garden of Philippine plants, and a lagoon.

Marikina launches bikeways project

THE FIRST bikeways project in the country was launched in Marikina recently to encourage alternative forms of transportation and to relieve traffic congestion in the city.

Marikina Mayor Marides Carlos-Fernando said the Marikina Bikeways Project, with more than 66 kilometers of bike lanes, will link residential communities with schools, business and commercial centers as well as with the soon-to-be-finished Light Rail Transit (LRT2) station on Marcos Highway and other public transport terminals.

Fernando said the project was funded by the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank, represented by country director Vinay Bhargava who attended the launch at the Marikina River Park.

Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman, Rizal Rep. Vic Sumulong, former Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando, Vice Mayor Marion Andres, and members of the city council also attended the affair.

Earlier, presidential husband Mike Arroyo and Susan Romero of RII Builders each donated 20 bicycles to the local Bantay Bayan.

Fernando said that according to a 1999 Asian Development Bank report, 16 people die daily in Metro Manila due to air pollution, 78 percent of which are caused by motor vehicles.

City studies also show that there are more people who use bicycles in Marikina (10,500 daily trips or a ratio of 2.9 percent) as compared to the whole of Metro Manila (1.7 percent).

"The MBP hopes to promote a healthier way of going about in the city," Fernando said. "Its success will mean lesser traffic, lesser pollution, healthier residents and increased productivity."

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2	SWORD FISH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JURASSIC PARK 3 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RIDE WITH THE DEVIL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	FINAL FANTASY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	JURASSIC PARK 3 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	TOMCATS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TOM CATS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	JURASSIC PARK 3 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA CONCERT JULY 27, & 28-9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

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2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
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4	DR. DOLITTLE 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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MOVIE GUIDE

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3	DRIVEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
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MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
ROBEN	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-1	UNANG TIBOK
TANDEM-2	AMORSEKO
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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REMAR	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
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CINEMA-2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MAHAL KITA KAHIT...
CINEMA-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-3	BAGANSYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	DRIVEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	TOM CATS
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DR. DOLITTLE-2
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-4	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-6	JURASSIC PARK-3
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	BATANG MAGDALENA
CINEMA-4	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	MOLATA
CINEMA-4	COLLEGE GIRL

'Caravan of Stars' at SM City

RACHEL Alejandro will join hosts Ruby Rodriguez and Kevin John Vernal in Western Union's "Caravan of Stars" roadshow tour, July 28, Saturday, at SM City North Edsa.

The event is part of a nationwide roadshow organized by Western Union, one of the world's leading money transfer companies, to demonstrate the company's commitment to give something back to local communities throughout the country.

The audience will be treated to a live performance by Alejandro and a variety of fun-filled games such as balloon-popping and tongue twisters.

There will also be a raffle of prizes. Western Union will give away t-shirts, caps, umbrellas, coffee mugs and $ 100.

"Our philosophy at Western Union is to provide the people with more than a money transfer service," said Lilly Chan, vice president for marketing in Asia Pacific.

"We want to literally reach out to local communities throughout the country to let them know that we appreciate their support and to demonstrate that we're as committed to them as they have so graciously been to Western Union."

During the event, Western Union executives will answer questions about the company's services and discuss customer experiences on how Western Union's services have benefited them and their families.

The Manila event is Western Union's third stop in its "Caravan of Stars" schedule, which includes visits to Pangasinan, Davao, Vigan, Las Piñas and Quezon City.

Aiza concert

LIBRARY along M. Adriatico st., Malate, presents Aiza Seguerra, "Unplugged," at 9 tonight.

Aiza will get to sing her hit Taglog ditty, "Pagdating ng Panahon," the carrier single of her album which has turned quadruple platinum to date.

The show is directed by Andrew de Real, who also produces it with Shayla Dabandan and Pilar Mateo.

For ticket inquiries, call 522-2484 or 536-5431.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Close ties with Fukuoka

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY Filipinos don't know that the Philippines is held in high esteem in the Japanese city of Fukuoka, thanks to the Filipino movies that are regularly chosen for screening in the annual Focus on Asia—Fukuoka International Film Festival.

Some years back, the festival had a particularly strong focus on movies from the Philippines. And ever since 1995, director **Marilou Diaz-Abaya** has had a movie of hers screened annually at the Fukuoka filmfest:

1995, "Ipaglaban Mo." 1996, "May Nagmamahal sa Iyo." 1997, "Milagros." 1998, "Sa Pusod ng Dagat." 1999, "Jose Rizal." 2000, "Muro-Ami."

Diaz-Abaya won't have a new film in the 2001 filmfest this September, but Fukuoka is giving her a special honor: the city has hailed her as the winner of its Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize.

In connection with her having been chosen as laureate of the prestigious culture prize, Marilou will be honored with a retrospective of some of the best movies she has made since the early '80s.

Six of those movies have been preserved and made part of the Fukuoka City Library Film Archive Collection. Along with "Karnal," they will comprise the retrospective screenings of Diaz-Abaya's films.

'Shrek' hits it big

AFTER only one month of release in North America, DreamWorks-PDI's latest animated feature, "Shrek," has topped the $200-million mark in gross receipts, only the fourth full-length animated production to do so.

It now ranks behind "Lion King" ($313M), "Toy Story 2" ($245.8 M) and "Aladdin" ($217M), all Disney movies.

This must be sweet vindication for DreamWorks executive **Jeffrey Katzenberg**, who once worked with Disney but left the leading animation studio under not very happy circumstances.

We can see "Shrek" surpassing "Aladdin" and thus ending up as the third most successful animated feature of all time. Just possibly, it could even nose out "Toy Story 2" and claim the second spot behind "Lion King."—What an upset that would be!

Finally, "Shrek" is also being tagged as the frontrunner in the first-ever Oscar competition for the best animated feature of the year. If it wins that award, Disney will truly be blown away. Abangan!

'Let Your Spirit' music video

NOEL Cabangon's latest endeavor is the music video of the song "Let your Spirit," from the album "Something More: Songs for Skeptics." The song, with lyrics by Fr. **Johnny Go, SJ** and music by Bro. **Eddie Dass, SJ**, brings Noel to Sagada.

Directed by **Lawrence Cordero** and produced by Jesuit Communications, Inc., the "Let Your Spirit" music video will be launched at 7:30 p.m. today, July 25, at Bistro '70.

Noel's musical journeys next take him to SM Centerpoint on July 27, SM Sucat on July 28, SM Manila on July 29 and SM Fairview on Aug. 3, for mini-shows that start at 4 p.m. Noel's album, "Pasakalye," is produced by the Jesuit Music Ministry.

Character of the Month

EVERY month this year, the Cartoon Network features a cartoon figure as its character of the Month.

In August, the featured character is I.R. Baboon, the "lovable loser" in the original series, "I Am Weasel."

No matter how hard he tries, Baboon always runs a poor second to the world-famous Weasel. Weasel is not necessarily a pro at any one thing, but he is a champion at everything. On the other hand, Baboon is dim-witted and, despite his best efforts, keeps on finishing last.

The network's Character of the Month takes center stage an hour every week. Get to know more about Baboon in character profiles running everyday next month.

New single from Usher

AFTER a long absence, **Usher** is back with a new single, "U Remind Me," from his much-awaited album, "8701." Currently chart-topper, the single has a melodic R&B flavor. Its video features a dance solo by Usher, as well as a cameo appearance by fellow Artista contract talent Chilli of TLC.

Feedback

FROM **Boy Blue F. Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Aliance Against Pornography: "We are disappointed with the gory presentation of Channel 7's "Kakabakaba" last July 14: (A) **Gelli de Belen** hit **Dennis Padilla**'s head several times with a frying pan. (B) She dragged his bloodied corpse in the kitchen. (C) She held a chain saw, implying a 'chop-chop' murder.

"(D) In silhouette, Padilla's body was shown dumped into a grinding machine. (E) It was implied that the body parts were turned into hamburger patties that were devoured with gusto by customers. (F) During dinner, De Belen's character furiously presented Padilla's bloodied head.

"We object to this gruesome presentation . . ."

After Piolo, Pops expects to be linked to Robin

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE BREAKUP of her marriage to **Martin Nievera** has left **Pops Fernandez** one of the most controversial single women in show biz. Especially after she obtained an annulment, Pops has been inevitably linked to every good-looking guy in tinseltown, from **Aga Muhlach** to **Troy Montero** to **Piolo Pascual**.

"I really must be one of the exciting women in the business now," Pops allows. "Everybody is excited to find out who the next guy in my life will be. So am I. But they should know that the only thing I'm looking for in life is true love."

Pops insists that more than finding the next man, she is more concerned about earning money for her sons **Robin** and **Ram** and saving up for her own future.

"I am not in a relationship," Pops says. "If you can see my calendar, it's work, work, work everyday. My focus is my career."

She is regularly seen on TV as one of the hosts of the noontime show "Asap" on ABS-CBN. She returns to TV acting when she headlines a five-episode series in "Larawan" on GMA 7 starting August.

"My contract with 'Asap' expired and I haven't signed a new contract with ABS-CBN," she explains. "They are not forcing me to stay or preventing me to sign a contract outside the network. I guess ABS-CBN wants to be fair with me so they allowed me to do 'Larawan' for GMA."

FERNANDEZ. Her focus is her career.

Pops is also in a new movie for Star Cinema, "Videoke King," which marks her first teamup with action star Robin Padilla.

"I won't be surprised if the next thing I hear is that I'm being linked with Robin. Actually, the movie has brought us close. We eat out and watch movies, but always with a group. I'm sure that will mean something romantic to those who are interested in my personal life."

Slam-bang vehicle

ACTION star **Jeric Raval,** who has not been seen for a long time, is back in another slam-bang vehicle, "Bagansya." The movie is a follow-up to his action-drama hit last January, "Bala Ko, Bahala sa 'Yo."

In "Bagansya," he plays a peace-loving and law-abiding factory worker and family man. He gets into trouble with the law when police scalawags do every trick in the book to get him into the slammer after they fail to extort booze money from him. The crooked cops jail him for vagrancy. Then they begin to pile up charges against him until he is left with no choice but to fight back.

Jeric says "Bagansya" is a timely movie that exposes abusive cops and their atrocious practices of arbitrary detention and coercion of innocent civilians.

Playing the villains in "Bagansya" are **Patrick de la Rosa, Dindo Arroyo** and **Raymond Keanu.** Actor-turned-politician **Dan Fernandez** appears in a special role as an honest cop investigating Jeric's case.

Jeric's leading lady is **Sharla Tolentino.**

Busy, happy

AI-AI de las Alas claims she is at her busiest and happiest lately, following her move to ABS-CBN. Aside from the bigger paycheck she is now getting, she has more shows in the network.

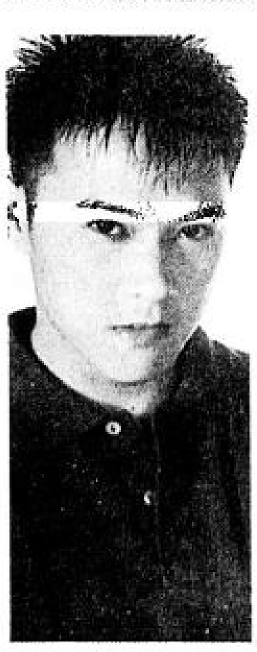
"Not that I was not happy when I was still with GMA," she explains. "I only had one show there and I didn't have a contract with the network. The show was '1 for 3' and it was produced by M-Zet. I was not identified with the station."

It was ABS-CBN executive **Charo Santos-Concio** who asked Ai-Ai to be an exclusive talent of the network. Charo was said to have been very impressed with Ai-Ai after seeing her in **Sharon Cuneta's** show. The day after the show, Charo asked the network staff to look for the comedienne.

Ai-Ai was courteous enough to tell her M-Zet boss, **Vic Sotto**, that she would leave the sitcom and move to ABS-CBN. She said she also talked to producer **Tony Tuviera**.

Now at ABS-CBN, Ai-Ai does hosting chores on the noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," on Saturdays. She is also seen on the sitcom "Arriba Arriba," Saturdays 7 p.m.

DE LAS ALAS. Exclusive talent of ABS-CBN



RAVAL. Star of the action flick "Bagansya"

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2ND SEXY DATE MOVIE WEEK!

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Nagpustahan ang barkada – sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di niya inaasahan na maiinlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. **Rated R.**

POWER PLANT CINEMA
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SWORDFISH - 18 12:30, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40	JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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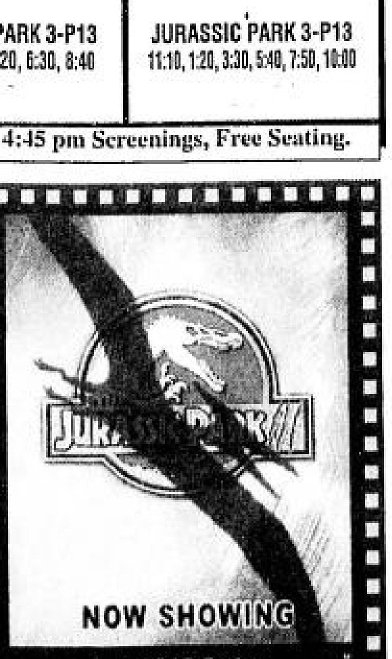

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B1
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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BSP moves to check excess liquidity

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

ASIDE from raising the reserve requirement on banks, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is considering other options to mop up excess money circulating in the economy.

Among these are the removal of the tiering scheme on interest paid on the reserves and a reduction in its overnight borrowing rates, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Another option, he added, was to sell some of the BSP's government securities and pursue more aggressive open market operations. "We could also increase the liquidity ceiling on government deposits in depository banks," he said.

The central bank pays a 9-percent interest on bank deposits with the BSP of up to P5 billion. The next P5 billion in deposits or up to P10 billion earn a lower interest of 7.5 percent, and deposits in excess of P10 billion earn only 6 percent.

Paying a flat 9-percent interest on bank deposits will encourage more lenders to keep their money in the BSP's vaults.

"We could remove the tiering to siphon off excess liquidity. We do have a lot of options," said the central bank governor. Buenaventura added that the policy-making Monetary Board could combine two or more alternatives to check the growing liquidity.

Buenaventura last week said the BSP was considering raising banks' reserve requirement from the current 16 percent in anticipation of the need to remove excess liquidity from the system if the growth in money supply would continue to outpace the performance of the economy.

"If we increase the reserve requirement, we would increase it from the liquidity portion and not from the statutory reserve because we don't want intermediation cost to increase," the BSP chief said.

An increase in reserves usually leads to higher cost of borrowing for individuals and businesses.

Banks currently set aside 16 centavos for every peso of their loanable funds and keep these in the central bank's vaults. Of the 16-percent reserve requirement, 7 percent comprises the liquidity reserve and 9 percent the statutory, which earns an interest lower than market rate.

Buenaventura pointed out that in May, domestic liquidity increased by 14.7 percent when the growth in the gross domestic product in the first quarter stood at only 2.5 percent.

The central bank governor explained that the BSP's target of allowing domestic liquidity to grow by 15 percent by year's end was premised on a GDP growth projection ranging from 3.8 percent to 4.3 percent.

The GDP growth target was already reduced to a range of 3.3 percent to 3.8 percent. "And now it looks like growth would be more on the 3.3 than on the 3.8 percent," Buenaventura said.

"If the economy would continue to decelerate while money supply continues to accelerate, we may raise the reserve requirement to mop up some liquidity because excess money in the system could be inflationary," the central bank chief said.

The central bank takes out about P12 billion to P13 billion in excess liquidity from the system for every percentage point increase in the reserve requirement.

SEC draws up anti-laundering rules for brokers

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has drawn up proposed anti-money laundering rules for broker-dealers to follow in an effort to rub the Philippines off a list of the world's top three "uncooperative" countries in the battle against money laundering.

The term money laundering covers all transactions designed to conceal the original or to change the identity of money obtained from criminal activity so that it appears to have originated from a legitimate source.

In its draft rules, the SEC noted that the increased integration of financial markets has enhanced the ease with which criminal money can be legitimized through the financial markets.

Under the SEC's proposed rules, broker-dealers should have a policy to maintain effective procedure to identify customers whose funds are or may be connected with money laundering activities such as fraud, drugs and terrorism.

Salespeople should take all reasonable steps to enable them to establish, to their satisfaction, the "true and full identity" of each client, and each client's source of wealth, financial situation and investment objectives at the time the relationship was established, the proposed rules stated.

SEC/ B3

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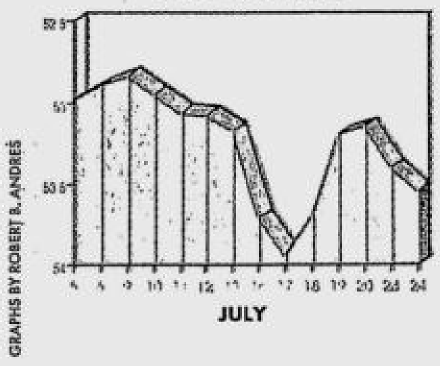


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

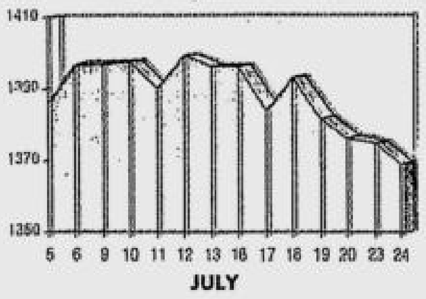
P53.55 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 24, 2001

¥ 124.30 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.30 as of 5 p.m., July 24, 2001

GOLD:$268.90/269.40
per ounce Hong Kong, July 24, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares down

SHARES finished slightly lower yesterday, with the main index ending at its lowest level in nearly nine months, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 5.81 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,369.02, its lowest closing level since Oct. 31, 2000, when the index ended at 1,287.85 points. The index lost 0.1 percent Monday.

Despite the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday, investors remained bearish over the country's economic prospects, said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan.

Roberto Cano, a stock analyst at BPI Securities, said the index would fall further if it did not retrace its break below 1,370.

"We're looking at a trading range of 1,270-1,300 if the index fails to go beyond the 1,370 level," he said. *AP, Reuters*

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RP, US near accord on trade barriers issue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and the US are close to reaching an accord on the controversial removal of non-tariff barriers specifically on automotive parts exports that nearly sparked a legal battle between the two countries at the World Trade Organization.

A government source said the United States has finally relented to extend the implementation of Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS), which lapsed in December last year, for another three and a half years or up to June 2003. The extension is a compromise of the US government's initial offer of a two-year extension and the Philippines' initial demand of a five-year extension.

Based on the preliminary agreement, the United States has agreed to the extension provided that the local content requirement, which mandates local automotive assemblers to use domestic supplies for a portion of their final products, would be phased out gradually during the period.

The other TRIM, net foreign exchange earnings or NEEF requirement (which requires automotive assemblers to bankroll half of their production costs from overseas sales) will be scrapped at the end of the extension.

The looming agreement averted a showdown between the United States and Philippines at the World Trade Organization's Trade Dispute Settlement board where the latter is at a disadvantage.

The United States had threatened the Philippines with stiff trade sanctions such as compensation from damages; elimination of preferential trade access, and an increase on the tariffs of Philippine exports to the United States.

The source said the US government, at the lobbying of Ford Motor Co., wanted the Philippines to live up to its commitment to lift the TRIMS after five years upon its signing in 1995. The United States said the TRIMS unduly limits access of American assemblers in the country because it forces them to buy more local parts and use the country as an export base.

The Philippines, however, wanted a TRIMS extension to give the automotive parts makers more time to recover from the 1997 financial crisis and the lingering economic slowdown. The Philippines noted that the WTO rules allow a five-year extension of TRIMS.

Aside from the Philippines, the United States has threatened to sue five other countries to force them to junk their TRIMS—Brazil (for textile products and lack of patent protection), Romania (discriminatory pricing on clothing, poultry and distilled spirits), India (for autos), Argentina (for patent protection), and Denmark (weak enforcement of patent and copyright laws).

The source said the bilateral agreement between the United States and the Philippines for the TRIMS extension was likely to be formalized once the American government inks similar pacts with seven other countries and sign a multilateral agreement under the WTO Committee on Trade in Goods.

Creditors divided over Shemberg unit's rehab

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Creditor banks of Shemberg Biotech Corp. are divided over the company's petition for rehabilitation which is now pending before the regional trial court.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and two other foreign financing institutions want Shemberg Biotech to stop operations.

Two local commercial banks, however, are willing to consider the rehabilitation of the company provided the plan is acceptable to them.

The consortium of creditors of SBC's mother company Shemberg Marketing Corp. favors the company's rehabilitation.

Aristotle Villaraza, chair of the SMC Creditors' Consortium, said that the proposed rehabilitaion of SBC was feasible.

Villaraza cited the experience of Shemberg Marketing, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

"The rehabilitation is going well over the last three quarters. The company paid all creditor-banks, participating in the rehabilitation over P100 million," he told the court.

According to Villaraza, SBC could sustain its viability if it would be allowed to undergo rehabilitation since the markets for its products were still there.

However, SBC's creditor banks do not agree with him.

The ADB, the CDC Group of Great Britain and the German company DEG are asking RTC Branch 11 Judge Isaias Dicdican to terminate proceedings for SBC's petition for rehabilitation and instead order its dissolution.

Dicdican has been designated to preside over the only commercial court in Cebu.

The SBC has submitted a petition for rehabilitation before the RTC asking for approval of its rehabilitation plan.

In its petition, SBC is seeking the conversion of 45 percent of loans with multilateral lenders and 30 percent of the loans with commercial banks into equity.

Originally, the company owed a total of P600 million but the principal amount rose to over P1 billion after the currency adjustments resulting from the peso depreciation.

The rehabilitation plan also includes the restructuring of the balance of the loans over a period of 10 years with two years grace period on principal repayment.

The SBC also asked for the postponement of payment of the accrued interest to after nine years from the start of the restructuring period and a waiver of penalties.

In its comment regarding the SBC petition, the ADB, the CDC and the DEG maintained that the company is "no longer a viable as a going concern" for the past four years.

They noted that continued operation of SBC is "not feasible or profitable and does not work to the best interest of the stockholders, parties-litigants, creditors or the general public."

RP seeks ₱9.6B in funds for irrigation projects

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY is seeking some P9.6 billion in financial assistance from the Japanese government to finance two irrigation projects next year.

The National Irrigation Administration has sought the funding from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to finance the P8.6-billion Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project in Pangasinan and the P1-billion Bago River Irrigation Project in Negros Occidental.

NIA Deputy Administrator Orlando Hondrade said the Agno River project could irrigate about 70,800 hectares of farmlands which could yield some 283,200 metric tons of palay.

He said that the Bago River project was designed to irrigate some 15,000 hectares of farmlands that could produce some 283,200 metric tons of palay.

The Japanese government through the JBIC is currently financing five irrigation projects in the country worth P14.5 billion. These are to be completed in two to three years.

These are the P3.5-billion Casecnan Multipurpose Project, the P623-million Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Reactivation Project, the P3.4-billion Pampanga Delta Development Project, the P2.5-billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project, the P2.1-billion Lower Agusan Development Project and the P2.38-billion Bohol Irrigation Project.

"When fully completed, these six projects will irrigate some 95,100 hectares of farmlands and benefit 111,130 farmers," he said in a press conference yesterday.

The Japanese government accounts for 70 percent of the total financing for national irrigation projects in the country. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank shared the balance.

Floro Adviento, Japan Bank for International Cooperation Philippine manager for foreign assisted projects, said the Philippine government has forwarded its request for ODA financing for these projects programmed for the year 2004.

Adviento noted that the Philippines has been on track in the implementation of most ongoing Japanese-funded irrigation projects.

In another development, the NIA said that the Office of the President has already pledged some P6 billion in funds for the agency.

Urban Bank rehab seen to obtain SEC nod soon

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is expected to approve soon the rehabilitation plan of Urbancorp Investments Inc., a 40 percent owned investment house of closed Urban Bank Inc.

"The receiver has no problem with the rehabilitation plan so we should have no problem with it as well. It's just a matter of paperwork," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters yesterday.

The SEC nod will pave the way for the merger of Urbancorp and Urban Bank with Export and Industry Bank.

In a draft report submitted to the SEC on Monday, Corazon de la Paz, the interim receiver of Urbancorp, recommended the approval of the rehabilitation plan proposed by EIB and the National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and Creditors.

Bautista said the SEC would wait for copies of merger papers and the respective approvals of plan by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Bautista also noted that most of the creditors of Urbancorp have already approved the rehabilitation plan.

In the draft report, De la Paz said that more than 84 percent of the trust investors and creditors of Urbancorp had confirmed their acceptance of the equity conversion and debt-servicing scheme under the rehabilitation plan.

Earlier this month, the PDIC board approved the rehab plan proposed by EIB and NAUD for Urban Bank and Urbancorp. The plan calls for a three-way merger among Urban Bank, Urbancorp and EIB with the former as the surviving entity but whose name will be changed to Export and Industry Bank Inc.

The plan also calls for the conversion into equity of 10 percent of Urban Bank and Urbancorp deposits and debts except the approximately P3 billion owed to San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

The unconverted deposits and other liabilities would be paid over a three-year period.

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Office of the President
Toll Regulatory Board

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Notice is hereby given that as per the Toll Concession Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines acting by and through the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Star Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDC), STAR - Stage 1 has been declared by the TRB as a Toll Road and that the toll rates should be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The following toll rates shall be applicable the next day after the date of complete compliance by SIDC of the TRB requirements under a Partial Toll Operation Certificate for Stage 1 - Sto. Tomas to Lipa City, Batangas.

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-Ups, Vans and the like)

ENTRY/EXIT	Sto. Tomas	Sambat	Bulihan
Sambat	4.00		
Bulihan	8.00	4.00	
Tambo	16.00	13.00	8.00

CLASS 2 (2-axle Trucks, Tourist/School Buses, PUBs, Class 1 - above 7 ft. in height)

ENTRY/EXIT	Sto. Tomas	Sambat	Bulihan
Sambat	8.00		
Bulihan	16.00	8.00	
Tambo	33.00	25.00	17.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy Vehicles such as 3-axle and Trucks, Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	Sto. Tomas	Sambat	Bulihan
Sambat	12.00		
Bulihan	24.00	13.00	
Tambo	49.00	38.00	25.00

SO ORDERED, July 18, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

(SGD) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

Unit 7B Vernida I Condominium, 120 Amorsolo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
Tel. Nos.: 813-6178 / 816-3263
Telefax: 813-6179

NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
(SEC. NO. AN092000449)

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that the POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. (PDFI) upon the request of Management will have a general meeting of members on August 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. to be held at the New Orleans Restaurant, Corinthian Plaza Building, Paseo cor. Legaspi Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila.

The Agenda for the said meeting will be as follows:

1. CALL OF MEETING TO ORDER
2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2000
4. REPORT TO MEMBERS
5. RATIFICATION OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION ON DISSOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION
6. OTHER MATTERS
7. ADJOURNMENT

All Members on record as of the end of the business day as of August 3, 2001 shall be entitled to vote in person and/ or by proxy. In case you cannot attend the said meeting, we request you to submit your proxy to the office of the Corporation located at Unit 7B Vernida I Condominium, 120 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, c/o Cora Morales, at least two (2) days before the date of the said meeting as provided for in the By-Laws of the Corporation.

Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

By:

(SGD) CELIA M. REYES
Board Secretary

Bebot's baby

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

TWO months into the Erap administration, Joseph Estrada summoned to Malacañang the six taipans who were the original proponents for the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Of the six, only three—Lucio Tan, John Gokongwei, and Andrew Gotianun—decided to show up.

In that meeting (the meeting was set for 1 p.m., Erap's first appointment for the day), the goonish ex-actor from San Juan asked the three taipans pointblank to drop their opposition and give the construction of the new Naia terminal to the local echo of a German group, represented in that meeting by Jeffrey Cheng, a small airport cargo handler who has hit the big-time with the right political connections.

In addition to Cheng and the taipans, present in that Malacañang meeting were Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, brother of low-key businessman Manuel Zamora (formerly of Security Bank); Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr., and two congressmen, ex-arms supplier Danilo Suarez and Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

If the Alvarez name rings a current bell, it is because he is now the same secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications on whose desk the life and death of the multibillion-peso contract for Naia Terminal 3 now hangs on.

COCKTALES/ B4

SEC draws up anti-laundering . . .

(From page B1)

Any suspicion of such transactions should be communicated to a senior executive of the firm for investigation.

The SEC said brokers firms should be suspicious when there are: large or unusual settlements of transaction in cash or bearer form; instructions to credit sales proceeds to an account different from that of the original source account or to a third party; and unusual size, nature or frequency of a transaction.

Several developed countries, through the Financial Action Task Force, have scored the Philippines for failing to put in place vital legislation and rules to prevent money laundering.

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF JULY 25, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8 M/ 2.1 M *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/110,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000	450,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	260,000/350,000*/450,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	400,000/450,000 *
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	800,000/900,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000 **	280,000/425,000 *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	250,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
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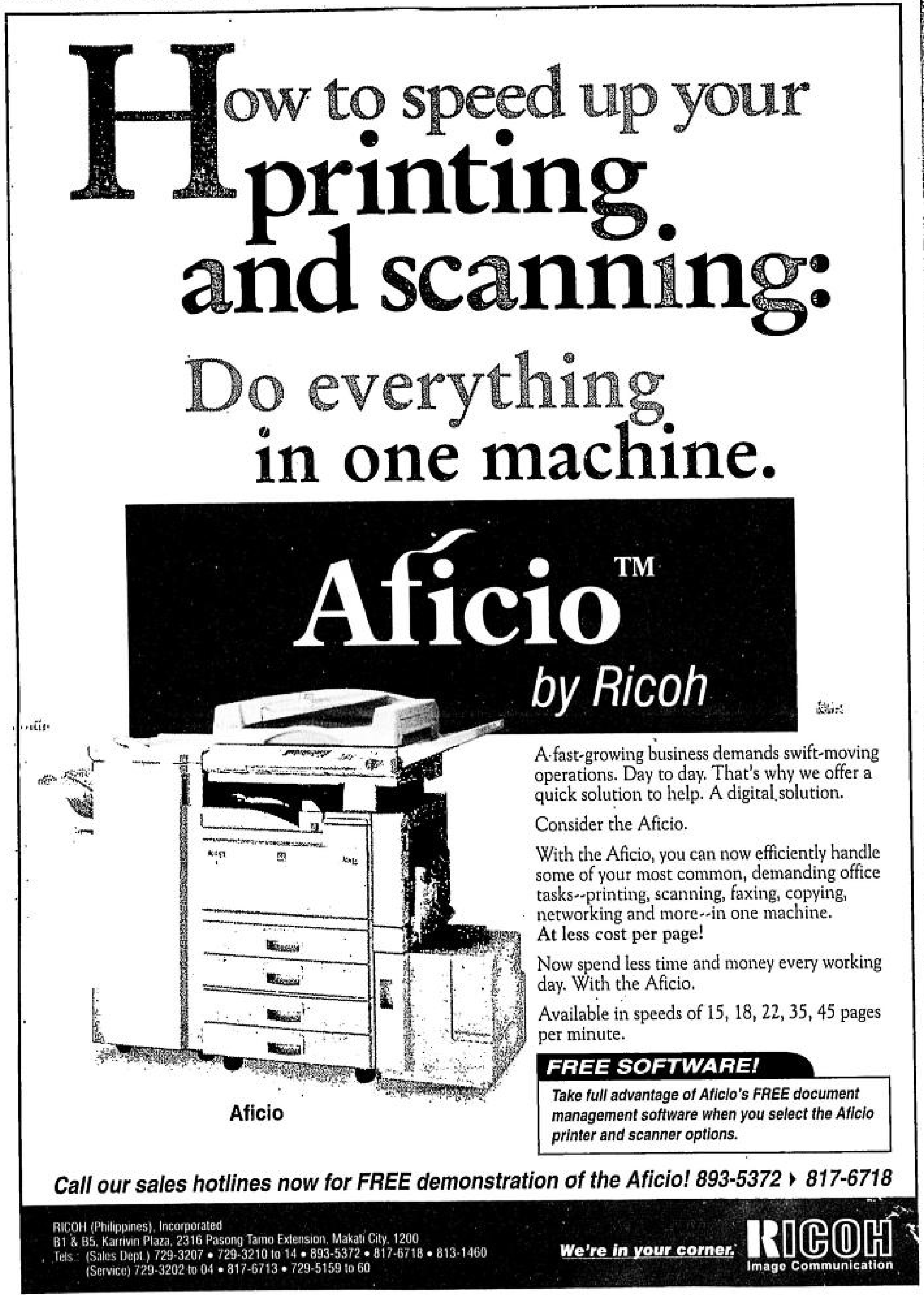

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2ND QUARTER

Meralco net profit down 44%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOPEZ-OWNED Manila Electric Co. yesterday reported a 44.4-percent year-on-year decline in its net income for the second quarter.

Meralco said it chalked up P558.6 million in net income for the second quarter this year compared to P1.01 billion for the same period last year.

The power distribution giant said the decrease was "due to the faster pace in the increase of both operating and other non-operating expenses."

Meralco said its operating revenues reached P33.4 billion from April to June 2001, up 31.5 percent from last year's P25.4 billion.

"This was brought about by an increase in volume sales, as well as increases in (revenues from) the purchased power cost and currency exchange rate adjustment," Meralco's report said.

Total sales volume in the second quarter reached 5.818 billion kilowatt-hours, up by 2.75 percent from 5.662 billion kwh for the same period in 2000.

However, operating expenses also rose by 33.7 percent to P32.1 billion this year from P24 billion last year.

This was due primarily to increases in purchased power cost, operations and maintenance expenses, depreciation of the peso and increases in franchise taxes, the report said.

"Other expenses for the quarter increased by 96.6 percent due to higher interest expense (because of) the depreciation of the peso," it added.

The firm also said the rise in other expenses was due to an increase in unrecovered purchased power beyond the mandated system loss cap.

Meralco's operating income for the quarter fell by 6.2 percent from P1.4 billion in 2000 to P1.3 billion in 2001.

The power distributor also suffered a 48.4-percent slide in its year-on-year income for the first quarter from P764.1 million in 2000 to P394.4 million this year.

This means a 47-percent decrease in the firm's year-on-year net income for the first semester.

Meralco posted P952.995 million in net income from January to June this year against P1.799 billion for the same period last year.

The distributor has observed "deteriorating distribution margins because of the delay in the approval of a rate hike."

Meralco has a pending petition with the Energy Regulatory Commission for a 30-centavo-per-kwh rate increase, which is facing strong opposition from the Office of the Solicitor General and the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms.

The OSG is questioning Meralco's computation of its return on rate base or the measure of its profitability.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

Despite the Terminal 3 contract having been approved and secretly amended three times during the Erap years, Alvarez, a personal choice of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has for strange reasons adamantly refused to disclose the contract's terms.

The disclosure would resolve one simple question. Did the government provide direct/indirect guarantee to the build-operate-transfer project? If the Erap administration did, then the contract would be null and void.

There is still one reason why Alvarez could not possibly disclose the contract—the six taipans would technically still have the right to match the German consortium's terms within 30 days after being furnished a copy of the Terminal 3 contract.

You may ask how, given their financial and political might, did the six taipans get trounced by a new and even foreign kid on the block.

One reason is that the original contract terms that the taipans had proposed are different from the contract terms (like the indirect government guarantee and the monopoly of airport services) that were finally handed over to Piatco, the German-Filipino consortium.

Another but more compelling reason is that the taipans had made a pact among themselves that, this being a *para sa bayan* project at the behest of President Ramos, they would conduct transactions with the concerned agencies on an above-board basis.

Do you get the libelous drift of what we are trying to convey?

Favorite judge

WE all have our favorites—favorite teachers, favorite eating places, favorite colors.

Among the tile/cement/steel importers, the mainly Chinoy group have their own favorite judge for their TRO requirements.

The importers led by Napoleon Co and son Ferdinand Co of Cohaco Trading/NGC Land have once against sought the intervention of Valenzuela Regional Trial Court Judge Floro Alejo for a temporary restraining order against the Department of Trade and Industry.

DTI is in the process of deciding whether to impose a safety net for the local tile and cement industries now being walloped by dumped cement from Indonesia.

Co's group had earlier managed to secure from the same judge a TRO that prevented the DTI from imposing another set of safeguards for the dying steel industry. As a result of non-imposition of the local safeguards against the imported steel dumpings, even the government's National Steel Corp. has ceased operations.

Preaching in print

BROTHER Mike Velarde's patron in Malacañang may have been ousted, but the Barnum-and-Bailey-style preacher has found a new ally in his earnest desire to strengthen his role as a mass media evangelist.

From TV and radio evangelism, Bro. Mike's religious empire has now branched off into print, having acquired a 10-percent stake in the newspaper controlled by port services king Enrique Razon Jr.

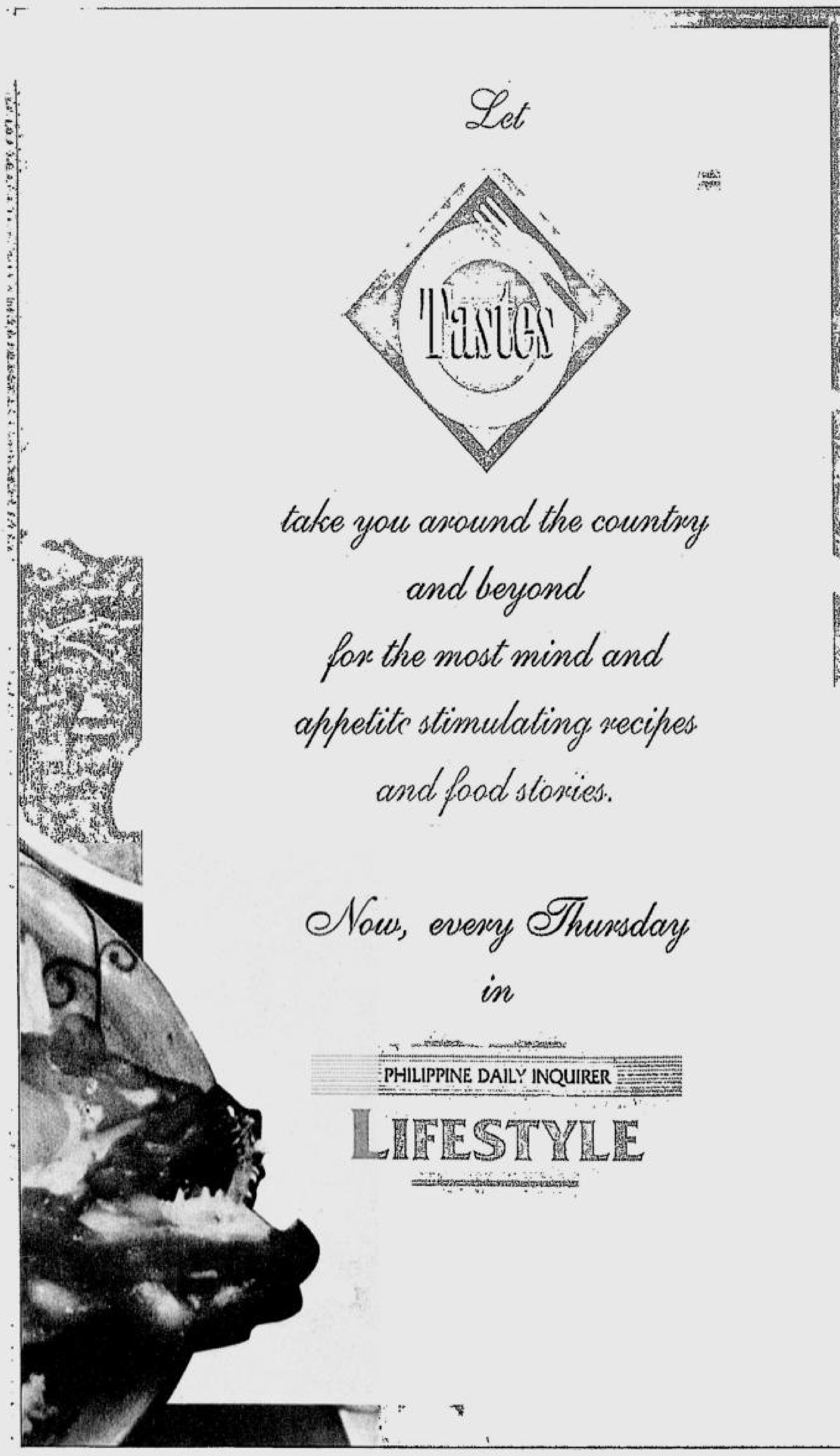
Not content with a minority stake, Bro. Mike would even write a regular column for the paper, whose strong selling points have been its regular fare of bathing beauties, mistresses, and feng shui/horoscope predictions.

But unlike the regular hacks in the racket, Bro. Mike would be freed from the regular commute to the Port Area offices to turn in his fire-and-brimstone column; instead, the preacher would send the piece either via fax or modem from the comforts of his Ayala Alabang home or the rarefied heights of his Tagaytay Highlands cottage.

Heard through the grapevine

THE NEW Manila Polo Club president, Policarpio Ascalon, was the treasurer of the board during the incumbency of Antonio M. Garcia.

If it is true as Ascalon now alleges that Garcia had to resign earlier this month because Garcia finagled with the club figures to show a profit instead of a whopping loss, how come this financial manipulation escaped the scrutiny of Ascalon the treasurer? *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*



RN41432

DISCLOSURES

ALASKA Milk Corp. on July 23 purchased 882,000 AMC shares at P2.02 per share, 120,000 AMC shares at P2.04 per share and 60,000 AMC shares at P2.06 for the company's stock buy back program.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. produced 11,930 ounces of gold, 321,217 pounds of copper and 84,245 ounces of silver during the month of June with an estimated value of P191.2 million.

* * *

THE END of the offer period for member-brokers for **Primex Corp.**'s initial public offering is today.

* * *

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. announced that the Board of Investments approved its application as new IT service firm in the field of electronic customer relationship management.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. clarified that the company is still in discussions with RFM Group for the acquisition of RFM's entire stake in Cosmos Bottling Corp.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands declared its regular cash dividend of P0.80 per share and special cash dividend of P1.60 per share. Record date is set on Aug. 7 with date payable on Aug 22.

* * *

SQL* Wizard Inc. advised that the company is not aware of any information that caused the unusual movement in the trading of its shares last July 23.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philippine Savings Bank** approved the resignation of Joey A. Bermudez as director and senior executive vice president, Alfredo S. Barretto as executive vice president, Ricardo V. Martin as senior vice president and chief finance officer and Maximo V. Estrada as senior vice president. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, July 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68.5	68	68	207,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	111,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	203	205	90,800
Philippine National Bank	40	40	40	40	19,000
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	10,000
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	19	19	19	19	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	25	24.5	25	4,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	215	215	215	215	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1430	1425	1430	5,720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1250	1260	1250	1260	2,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	2,100
Diversified Fin. Network	6.6	7.1	6.6	7.1	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	680	680	680	530
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	54,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	16,000
Piltel	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	20,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	665	660	665	18,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	20,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	5,100
Manila Electric Co. B	48.5	49	48	48.5	528,700
Petron Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	442,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.2	833,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	5,051,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.02	2.02	1,072,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.75	582,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	1,134,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	16,000
RFM Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.26	2.28	3,039,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	42.5	43	678,400
San Miguel Corp. B	54	55.5	54	55.5	1,226,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6,312,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	241,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	1,318,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0095	0.0075	0.0095	875,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	4,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.88	1.88	3,583,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	32.5	31.5	32	365,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	14,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	170,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	22,000
Medco Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.72	2,690,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	300,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	400,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	22,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Music Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	54,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	530,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	14,000,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	3,867,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	15,410,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	39.5	39.5	39	39	1,400
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	605,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.019	32,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.85	3,090,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	320,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.06	2.02	2.02	1,769,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	2,500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	27,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	5,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.055	56,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	870,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	27,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.022	10,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	350,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	8,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000

CURRENCIES

July 24, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.149822	1.000000	53.3870
Japan	Yen	0.009243	0.008039	0.4292
United Kingdom	Pound	1.633897	1.421000	75.8629
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147603	0.128370	6.8533
Switzerland	Franc	0.663639	0.577167	30.8132
Canada	Dollar	0.744366	0.647375	34.5614
Singapore	Dollar	0.629694	0.547645	29.2371
Australia	Dollar	0.583370	0.507357	27.0863
Bahrain	Dinar	3.050087	2.652661	141.6176
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306620	0.266667	14.2366
Brunei	Dollar	0.627975	0.546150	29.1573
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000099	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.025139	0.021863	1.1672
UAE	Dirham	0.313132	0.272331	14.5389
Korea	Won	0.000881	0.000766	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.869700	46.4307
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.444671	23.7397
France	Franc	0.152450	0.132585	7.0783
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.394653	21.0693
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063204	3.3743
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021559	1.1510
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000449	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.146273	7.8091
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004338	0.2316
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005227	0.2791
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.021559	1.1510
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.104291	58.9548

BLOCKING STOLEN PHONES

Globe Telecom, Isla Communications and Smart Communications have agreed to prevent stolen post-paid Global System for mobile communications handsets from being used by other people. The memorandum of agreement was signed by Globe SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima (second from right), Islacom legal counsel V. Froilan M. Castelo (right) and Smart legal, external and carrier relations head Rogelio V. Quevedo (left). The signing was witnessed by Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez (center), NTC Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio Jr. (third from left) and NTC Deputy Commissioners Kathleen Heceta (second from left) and Armi Jane Borje (third from right).

SM to push through with Baguio project

BAGUIO CITY—Taipan Henry Sy has finally returned to Baguio to build an SM mall here that he launched as early as 1995, but which remained dormant until April, businessmen and city officials told the INQUIRER.

The SM Baguio project was launched here by Sy himself and former President Fidel Ramos, but the business tycoon later veered toward Cebu City where he concentrated on an SM mall venture there.

Sy confided to local businessmen about his plans to revive the SM Baguio mall project on a prime real estate he bought from the owners of the old Pines Hotel.

He has also been constructing buildings on the same lot, which will accommodate restaurant franchises he hosts in most of his malls.

"I spoke to Henry Sy myself in two separate functions and he said he was prepared to go full blast on SM Baguio after the rains," said Carlos Honorio Estepa, the Cordillera governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

Sy will be plunging head on into a construction boom that continues here in spite of the fluctuating peso, said Leo Bernardez, city engineer.

Local investors have been raising six- to nine-story buildings since December last year, most of these are hotel projects intended to fill up the gaps in Baguio's tourism market.

The boom was dictated by "a forward looking perspective on tourism," Estepa said.

Estepa is an official of the North Philippines Tourism Council that had been tapped by the government to sell the country as an investment site to foreign tourists.

The innovative approach will anchor most of the programs of the Central East Asia Growth Project (CEAGP), an investment plan devised by the government of ousted President Joseph Estrada, but which was adopted by the Macapagal administration.

Sy will be reentering Baguio, where the mall facility had already been tested for its regional appeal.

The city hosts two shopping malls, whose chief market targets are consumers from the outlying towns of the Cordillera, Pangasinan and La Union.

At least two of the ongoing hotel projects also incorporate mall features.

But Sy is reportedly bent on opening a hotel, instead of a mall franchise, based on the track records of the existing SM malls, businessmen here noted.

Sy's original design called for an ambitious hotel facility at Luneta Hill, where the Pines Hotel burned down in 1981, and a separate SM mall at an open lot owned by the Government Service Insurance System. The two sites will be bridged by a 50-meter covered overpass.

The GSIS here noted that Sy's bid for the lot was never pursued. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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SPI unit seen picking up

INFORMATION technology service company SPI Technologies Inc. is expecting a turnaround in the operations of its call center business by the fourth quarter, which will allow the company to remain profitable this year.

This developed as the company reported a net loss of P43 million during the second half of the year compared to a net income of P6 million the same period last year. The losses were traced to the consolidation of e-Telecare International with its profitable IT outsourcing businesses.

The new call center business started operations last September and had been a drag to the company's bottom line during the first half of the year.

But SPI Tech president Ernest Cu said in a briefing to analysts that the company was expecting to neutralize the losses in the first semester of the year, especially with the fast growth of the call center business. He noted that the outsourcing IT business continued to be profitable while losses from the call center have started to decline.

"The call center business continued to incur an operating loss of P65 million in the second quarter. Steady improvement in sales and ramp up cost of new contracts allowed eTelecare to register a lower net loss of P39 million in the second quarter compared to a P57-million net loss in the first quarter," Cu reported.

e-Telecare's current clients include a telephone company, a credit card company, an incentive management services firm and a financial services company. This business accounted for 24 percent of SPI's total sales during the first semester of the year.

GOINGS-ON

Franchising guru coming to RP

FRANCORP Philippines said franchising guru behind the Jollibee franchise, Donald Dl. Boroian, is coming to Manila to do a special franchise Seminar on Sept. 12.

Timed with Franchise Asia 2001, the biggest franchise show in Asia this year, Francorp Philippines will offer a very special edition of its well-lauded "Franchise Your Business" seminar with Boroian.

Boroian is the chair of Francorp Inc. with headquarters in Chicago, USA. With more than 40 years of experience in franchising, he is a much sought-after consultant in the field of business expansion. Francorp US has provided consulting services to more than 10,000 businesses worldwide and has done full franchise development programs for over 2,000 companies.

Boroian is also an expert on franchise litigation, has given various seminars on franchising and expansion strategies, and is widely quoted by US journalists as an authority in franchising.

Siemon value added reseller

TECHNOLOGIES Specialist Inc., provider of state-of-the art products and exceptional professional services catering to both telecommunications and data communications requirements, forges a partnership with telecommunications cabling manufacturer Siemon Co. as its authorized value added reseller in the Philippines.

TSI president Ronald Arnel F. Bernal said the TSI-Siemon partnership will ensure that clients would benefit from the highest quality cabling infrastructure for their telecommunication requirements.

Committed to providing the customer with telecommunication infrastructure for voice, data and video applications, TSI offers multi-user, multi-host and multi-media connectivity; structured cabling and intelligent building systems, and servers supply, installation and maintenance.

Leading non-life insurer

MALAYSIA Insurance Co. Inc. remained the country's leading non-life insurance company in the Philippines last year, data submitted to the Insurance Commission showed.

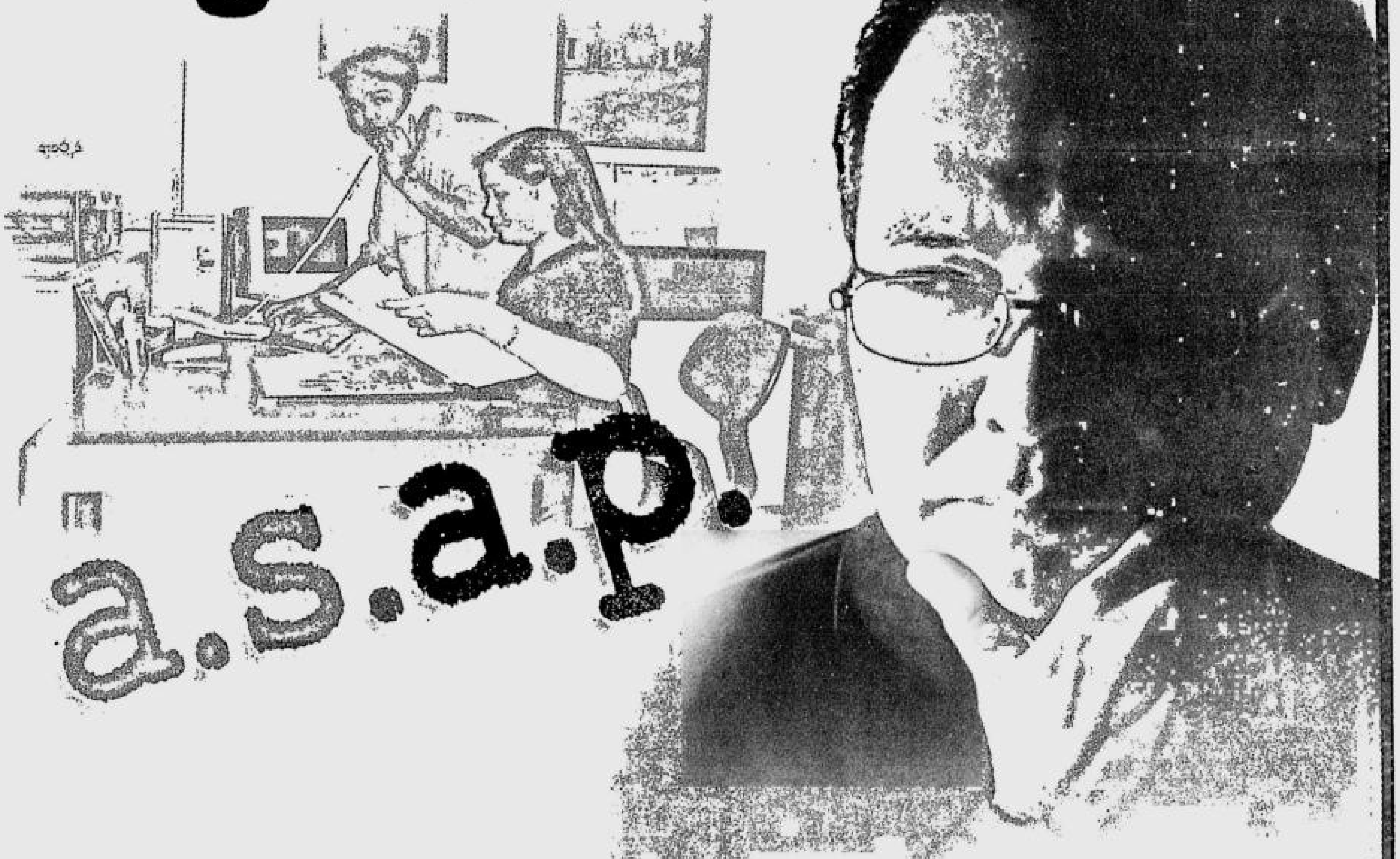
Malayan emerged as the No. 1 company in the category of industry gross premiums, scoring P300 million higher over the second-ranked company.

It bested 111 other companies with a gross premium of P2 billion.

The figure reflects an 8-percent increase from its 1999 gross premiums. The figures are based on a comparison of the submitted financial statements of all non-life insurance companies, as required by the Insurance Commission.

Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. is the core company of the Malayan Group of Insurance Companies, which recorded a total asset base of P10.440 billion in the year 2000, making it the biggest non-life insurance group in the Philippines.

Don't agonize... legalize



Join the BSA Assistance in Software Auditing Program (ASAP), and get a "Clean Bill of Software Health."

If your company is using illegal software, you face the risk of being raided. And if convicted, you could spend up to 9 years in prison and pay fines of up to P1.5 million. The damage to your business and reputation can be serious, perhaps, irreparable.

Don't wait until it is too late. Join BSA's Assistance in Software Auditing Program (ASAP).

ASAP is endorsed and supported by the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC), the highest ICT policy-making body in the Philippines.

To register your interest, just complete the ASAP reply form that your company will be receiving through the mail along with other materials pertaining to the program. If you have not received any letter from BSA so far, call the BSA ASAP Hotline at 893-7354 or log on to www.bsa.org/philippines.

Reply forms must be returned by mail at P.O. Box 3335 MCPO Makati, Metro Manila or by fax at 891-3431 on or before **August 31, 2001** for your company to be eligible for the program.

BSA
Business Software Alliance

Report software piracy at 811-5897 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-8787 (outside Metro Manila)

DECLARATION

Asean pledges to narrow rich-poor divide

HANOI—Southeast Asian governments promised on Tuesday to narrow the chasm that separated the region's richest nation from countries still mired in Third World poverty.

Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted a "Hanoi Declaration" pledging to bring impoverished members closer to the first-world standard of living in Singapore.

"We resolve to promote, through concerted efforts, effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the development gap among Asean member countries and between Asean and the rest of the world for the sake of dynamic and sustained growth of our region and prosperity of all our peoples," the declaration said.

"We shall work together to identify, through research, analysis and consultation, the comparative strengths of our economies and their potential for complementarity, with a view to promoting regional economic integration and a sense of community and shared responsibility among our nations."

The declaration was formally adopted late Monday and would be issued at the end of a two-day meeting in the Vietnamese capital, later Tuesday.

Asean countries face an enormous task in bridging a gap that has Laos, on one side, 100 times poorer than Singapore in terms of income per head.

The ministers said they would "devote special efforts and resources to promoting the development of the newer member countries of Asean—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam" through improving infrastructure, human resources and information technology.

"We shall continue to expand and deepen our linkages with the rest of the world, particularly with China, Japan and the Republic of (South) Korea within the Asean Plus Three framework, and with the other dialogue partners of Asean," the declaration said.

The private sector would also be involved in the drive, the ministers pledged, in a region where communist members Laos and Vietnam still insisted on the leading role of state enterprise.

The 10 nations agreed to step up regional trade initiatives and work towards implementing an agreement for a free-trade area by 2003 among its founding members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. *AFP*

Report, however, calls Asean an 'ineffectual talking shop'

HANOI—An end-of-term report card submitted to Southeast Asian governments by the regional bloc's top official made a dismal reading on the state of an organization seen by many as an ineffectual talking shop, delegates said Tuesday.

"I think the report is very useful, very constructive and very candid indeed," said Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai after he and colleagues from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations received the report late Monday.

The annual evaluation, presented by Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino, is harshly critical of the slow pace of regional integration effects, according to delegates who declined to be identified.

It attacked a half-hearted approach to programs such as trade liberalization and other regional commitments to economic reform, the delegates told AFP.

But the Thai minister said the report "set a very good foundation for our discussions both in the AMM (Asean ministerial meeting) and the retreat".

The traditional retreat late Monday in a Hanoi hotel gave the Asean foreign ministers a free rein on discussions, which on the sidelines of the two-day annual meeting have been dominated by the political upheaval in Indonesia.

"I think Asean is indeed really moving forward and there's been many areas that we've been working together quite well, especially in the sub-regional cooperation, the eradication of narcotic drugs," Surakiart added.

"They (the Jakarta-based secretariat) think each and every individual country has been working quite well under the framework of IAI (Initiatives for Asean Integration), but Asean has not done enough PR for what we have achieved in the past year."

Asked if Asean should abandon its policy of consensual decision-making, which critics argued crippled the organization's ability to respond to regional instability, the Thai minister said: "No, no, not at all." *AFP*

A VIETNAMESE vendor is pictured with the remains of a B-52 US bomber (background) shot down in 1972 at B-52 Lake in Hanoi. US Secretary of State Colin Powell is paying a visit to Hanoi, where he will attend a series of conferences related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with foreign ministers of China, Japan, South Korea and other countries. AP

RP weighs down SE Asia auto sales

SINGAPORE—New vehicle sales in Southeast Asia's four biggest markets rose 9 percent in the five months of this year, weighed down by a weak performance in the Philippines, an industry monitor said Tuesday.

The Philippines was the only market to experience a decline with a fall of 15 percent, Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. said in its latest report.

New vehicle sales in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines from January to May totaled 400,200 units, up from 367,333 units last year.

"The Thai, Indonesian and Malaysian automotive markets continue to recover at respectable rates, despite the countries' uncertain economic conditions," said ARA associate May Arthapan.

But in the Philippines, "unresolved political and social problems are cutting into consumer confidence," Arthapan said.

Thailand posted the biggest increase in percentage terms, with sales up 14 percent to 112,903 vehicles, while the Malaysian market rose 11 percent to 150,287 and Indonesia was up 9 percent to 108,058 units.

In the Philippines, sales dropped 15 percent to 28,952 vehicles from 34,024 in the same period last year.

The Philippines this year has seen a popular uprising topple President Joseph Estrada in favor of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, followed by riots and a march on the presidential palace by 50,000 Estrada supporters after he was charged with plunder, which carries the death penalty. *AFP*

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Japan key to US prosperity, Asia growth, says Powell

TOKYO—US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday offered Washington's support for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's economic reform plans, saying Japan's economy held the key to American prosperity and Asian growth.

"Our government fully supports Prime Minister Koizumi's economic reform agenda and we stand ready to assist in any way we can," Powell told a news conference near the end of a brief stop in Tokyo at the start of a five-day Asian tour.

"The prime minister and I discussed our countries' responsibilities as the world's two largest economies to do what we can to stimulate economic prosperity," Powell said.

"We both want to see a strong healthy Japanese economy because we believe that a vibrant Japanese economy is key to America's prosperity and to Asia's growth," he added.

The popular Japanese leader is expected to lead his party to victory in an Upper House election on Sunday, seeking a mandate for reforms that are expected to inflict more pain on an economy already hit by its worst slump in half a century.

Reflecting doubts about Koizumi's reforms and worries about the world economy, the Tokyo stock market's key Nikkei average has recently lost about 20 percent of its value since a year's high of 14,556.11 touched on May 7, shortly after he took office.

Koizumi reiterated on Tuesday that promoting reforms would lead to economic recovery and revitalization. "We should not react to every movement in the stock market. There is no change in my view that we should press ahead with reforms," he said.

"Reforms will lead to an economic recovery and revitalization," he told reporters.

POWELL

Powell is in Tokyo briefly before flying to the ASEAN regional forum, Asia's key security group, which is meeting from July 24 to 26 in Hanoi. *Reuters*

Japanese mobile phone makers may shift production to China

TOKYO—Two major Japanese mobile phone part makers said Tuesday they might move production bases to China to side-step a painful 100-percent tariff imposed by Beijing on certain products made in Japan.

Kyocera Corp., the world's largest maker of computer ceramics used in mobile telephones, said it was considering moving production of personal handy phone parts to China because the 100-percent tariff hike meant its exports to the country were no longer competitive.

"If the tariffs continue, we are thinking about shifting (production) to China to get around the problem," said Kyocera spokesperson Masaaki Ito.

The technology leader ceased exports of PHS units to China earlier this month because of the hike in duties.

"Our products are now so expensive no one wants to buy them," said Ito.

This year the company had hoped to ship 30 billion yen ($250 million) worth of mobile phone components to China.

Japan's Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. said it too had halted exports to China as a result of the tariff hike and was adopting a "wait-and-see" stance regarding whether to shift production to the mainland.

"When the tariffs were first announced, we had hoped PHS units would not be included as they were not specifically mentioned, but now it seems as though this was just wishful thinking," said company spokesperson Derek Wentz.

"We have not stopped production but the 100-percent tax price makes our products so expensive that Chinese buyers do not want to purchase them so we have stopped exporting for now," said a second Sanyo spokesperson Akihito Oiwa.

Instead, the company is shipping more units to Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"We have adopted a wait-and-see stance to find out how long this (trade row) continues, but moving our production to China is definitely a possibility," said Wentz. *AFP*

Opec to reduce oil production

CARACAS—Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries secretary general Ali Rodriguez said Monday Opec's meeting in early August would "agree on a production cut of between one million and 1.5 million barrels" per day.

The extraordinary session—to be attended by ministers from Opec nations on Aug. 6 to 7 in Vienna, according to the official Algerian press agency APS—would "stop the fall (in prices) that has become very pronounced in the last few days," Rodriguez added.

Rodriguez warned that the drop in prices could take oil "very far below 22 dollars" a barrel, speaking on VTV television.

The widely expected announcement came in response to the falls last week in oil prices, which reflected a global economic slowdown in industrialized countries, resumed exports by Iraq and increased levels of US crude stocks.

Rodriguez also said a cut in production would serve to "halt the extremely high levels of speculation there is at the moment."

In London, the price of oil rallied early on Monday as the Opec oil-exporting cartel signaled that it could cut output as early as next month.

Late last week, oil prices slumped below $24 a barrel to levels not seen for six months, as concerns over weak demand mounted. *AFP*

Fox Family Channel added to Disney's cable cache

The children's cable network Fox Family Worldwide Inc. has been bought by Walt Disney Co. for $3 billion in cash plus the assumption of $2.3 billion in debt. The Fox Family Channel reaches about 81 million subscribers in the United States.

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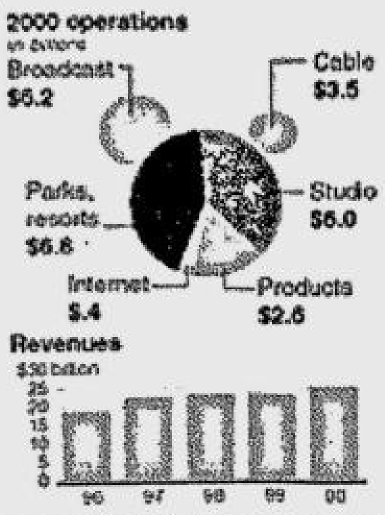


SOURCE Hoovers AP

IMF sees robust US growth

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund expects the US economy to expand at just 1.5 percent this year before posting a more robust expansion of 2.5 percent next year.

The forecasts, prepared for the international lender's upcoming annual assessment of the world's richest economy, predict that economic activity will pick up modestly in the second half of this year after a sluggish start.

The source told Reuters that the report calls for "a modest pickup in growth in the second half of the year, supported by the aggressive easing of monetary policy, the recently enacted fiscal stimulus and the completion of the inventory adjustment cycle."

The source added that the IMF would advise the US Federal Reserve to "be ready to cut interest rates further if signs of weakness persist."

On Friday, the IMF's executive board will discuss the latest assessment of the US economy, with an official statement expected soon afterward. The source stressed that the forecasts could still be changed by IMF economists in the days leading up to the board's discussion.

The latest forecasts are identical to those published in April by the IMF as part of its World Economic Outlook.

Nevertheless, the forecast is important as a sign that the lender remains hopeful that prospects in the United States—the driving force behind global growth in recent years—will rebound after a weak start to the first half of the year that had led some to fear about a possible recession.

Despite that, the IMF's forecasts are weaker than those of the Bush administration, which has a rosier forecast for next year.

Earlier on Monday, White House economic adviser Glenn Hubbard said he expected US growth would rebound to a solid 3 percent in 2002.

The Federal Reserve has so far cut interest rates by 2.75 percentage points this year in an effort to boost growth prospects. Also, President George W. Bush has enacted an 11-year tax cut worth $1.35 trillion in the hope of boosting spending in the economy.

Hubbard's latest comments were also slightly more optimistic than those made last week by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan. The central banker said although the US economy might be shaking off its malaise, there might still be risks to the economy that could force the Fed to cut rates again. *Reuters*

Mum's the word on corporate outlook

NEW YORK—Those seeking clues to prospects for the stumbling US economy from the latest batch of earnings reports are getting little help as America's corporate titans say they cannot see beyond the factory gate.

The suddenness of the dotcom collapse and the telecommunications equipment market's severe downturn has made them particularly wary of making predictions. The recent weakening in European demand and strength in the dollar has also caught many on the hop.

It has added up to short-term peaks and dips in order cycles that have been almost impossible to predict, investor said.

"One week they may be pleased and then the next it slows down," said Gil Knight, who managed $13 billion for Allied Investment Advisors. "You have to understand that orders can be cancelled in one phone call."

Using deliberately opaque phrases such as "limited visibility" and "economic uncertainty," chief executives have dug their heels in when asked about the timing of any economic recovery.

A cross section of US industry is represented on the long list of companies that staunchly refuse to predict what may happen this year. Among the recent examples are No. 1 data storage firm EMC Corp., network computer maker Sun Microsystems Inc., No. 1 telecommunications equipment maker Nortel Networks Corp. and diversified industrial group Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. *Reuters*

Hyundai president resigns

SEOUL—Hyundai Motor Co. president Lee Kye-Ahn on Tuesday handed in his resignation to pave the way for corporate restructuring, news reports said.

Yonhap news agency quoted an unidentified Hyundai Motor official as saying that Lee, citing private reasons, handed in his resignation letter to company chair Chung Mong-Koo.

A company spokesman refused to comment on the reports.

It was not known whether Chung accepted the resignation.

The reports of Lee's resignation comes as Hyundai Motor is widely believed to be seeking to revamp itself and enhance its competitive edge.

Hyundai Motor is expected to achieve all-time record sales and profits this year, with its second quarter results likely to be better than expected, analysts say.

But its shares fell for a third successive day, triggered by overseas uncertainties.

At midday trade, Hyundai Motor was down 4.2 percent at 20,400 won with the composite index down 1.4 percent at 517.07 points. *AFP*

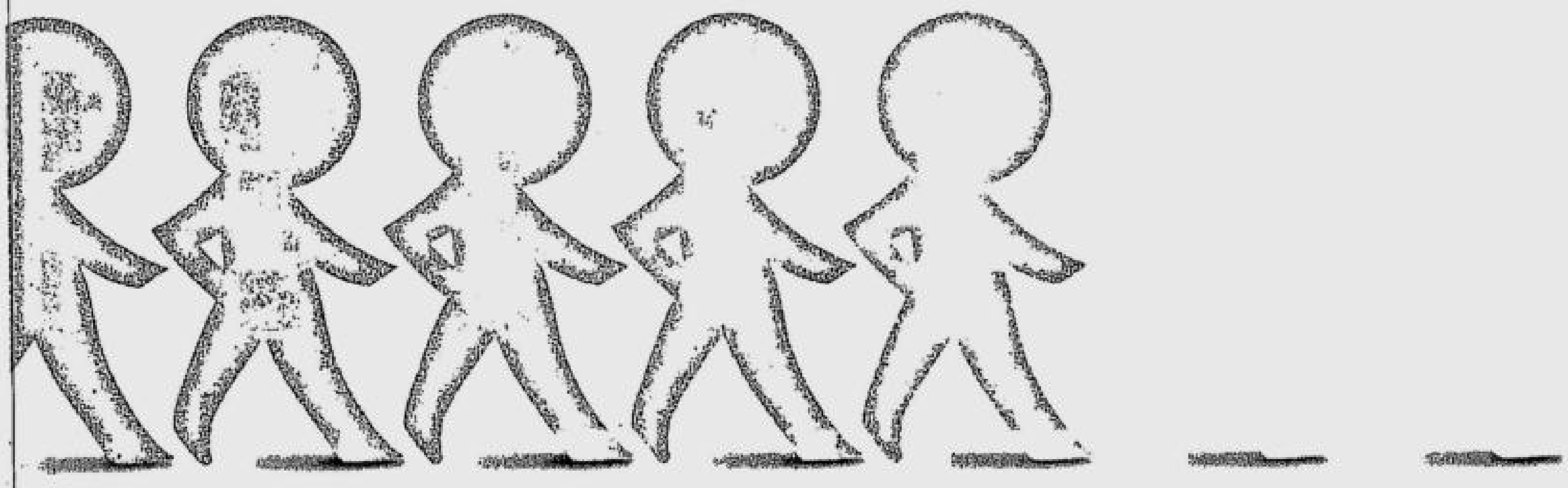
Amazon unveils AOL deal

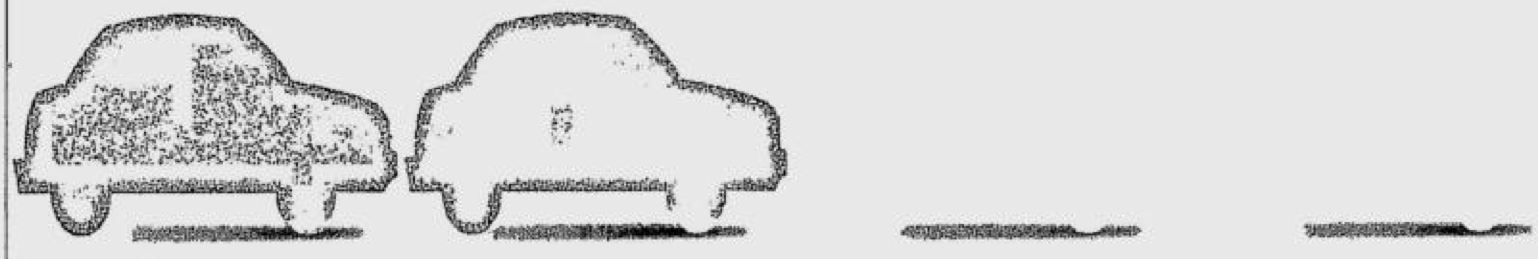
SEATTLE—Amazon.com's second-quarter net loss narrowed, beating Wall Street's expectations, as the online retailer announced a partnership with America Online and said it remained on track to record "pro forma" operating profitability by the fourth quarter.

But the company warned that its projected sales for the coming quarters would not meet its own early expectations, sending shares of Amazon down 98 cents, to $15.05, in extended trading Monday on the Nasdaq stock market.

Shares fell 95 cents to finish the regular session at $16.03.

The company also said it expected net sales for the entire year to increase by between 11 percent and 16 percent over 2000 figures, while it had previously forecast an increase of 20 percent to 30 percent. *AP*





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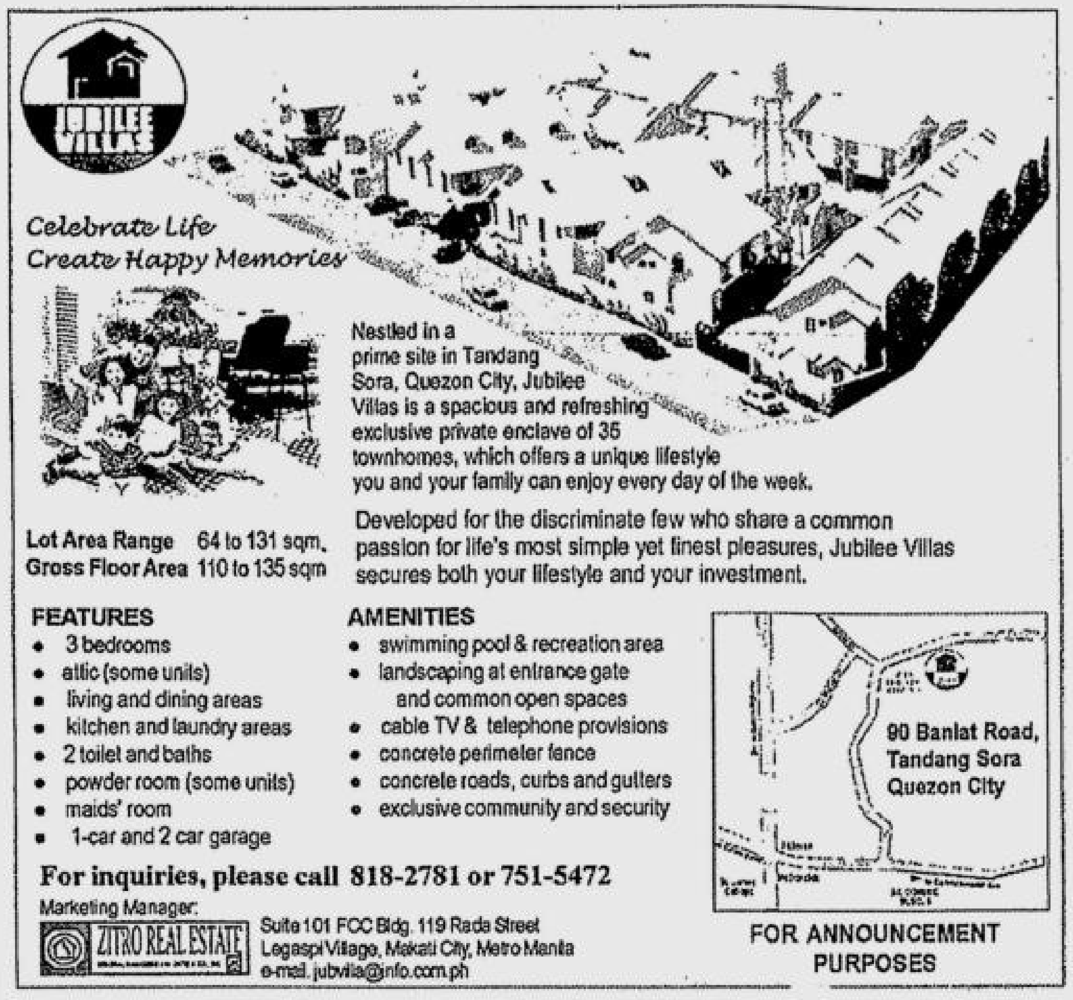
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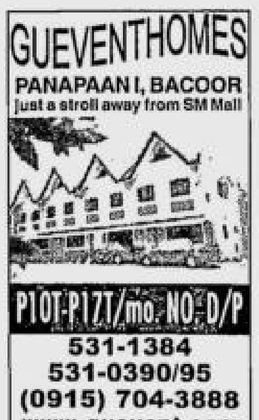
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LOT

LAS PINAS

Talon Las Pinas LA 204m² 3BR 2TB Bung P14M 874-9074/75

MAKATI

Comm'l/Ind'l LOT Nr. Ford Motor 637-6847 • 633-7601

MANILA

A=847 Dart Paco 7401083

Near Espana Mla. 142m² No Flood 20m Frontage P3.6M **Call 925-8018**

LOT

MARIKINA

Rancho Estate 2,054sqm, with fence already no flood P2,700sqm 681-2457

MUNTINLUPA

Alabang Hills 533m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

Hilsboro LA 400 Prime Loc 7500m² rush 874-9074/75

PARANAQUE

Exec.Heights Brgy.Sunvalley LA306m² 2M 0917-8143792

Executive Hts. Pque 300m² Viot 7277506 Off Hour

PASIG

869m² Valle Verde 5 Call Raquel • 634-1212

Valley View Exec. Cainta Overlooking 2 adj. lots 150m² 658-2115/16

QUEZON CITY

Capitol Homes QC 551sqm Call 0919-4227654

GREENVIEW EXEC. VILL. 150&184m²@4,9T/m²6811766

Nr. Baler SFDM QC 445m² V/Lot w/Fence • 928-3267

SFDM QC 519m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

RIZAL

10,012m² P250m² with fruit bearing trees 652-0227

1,927m² P5,000 Town proper along National Road 652-0227

Agricultural land Antipolo Masinag Market L/A 2.8m² 658-2115/16

Antipolo City proper Commercial 1756m² 658-2115/16

Binangonan Rizal Overlooking/ Read'l 1000m² 658-2115/16

Brgy. Bilibiran, along national road 652-0227

Ciudad del Sol TayTay Rizal Affordable lots from 58.5m² & Up 658-2115/16

East Acropolis Taytay, choice read'l /Commercial lots Cash/Inst. 658-2115/16

One ha. More or less P2,500m² 652-0227

Ridgemont Subd. Cainta Overlooking Metro Mla. 160m² and Up 658-2115/16

Taytay 10790m² Commercial 815-0298/0919-4037225

Taytay 2679m² Nr.T.Hut 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

Taytay Rizal Commercial Industrial 108m² 658-2115/16

Vista Verde Cainta Rizal Victoria St. 5 adj. lots 150m² 658-2115/16

LOT

SAN JUAN

Corner Commercial lot 1,301sqm at P55,000/sqm 681-2457• 0917-5413445

PROVINCIAL

114 has. P1,500m² along South SuperHway.652-0227

1,370Has @ P50/m² Loc. Mayantoc Sta. Ignacia & San Jose Tarlac 652-0227

1,700Has @ P200/m² Along D H-way other side along shoreline 652-0227 • 942-6181

200 has. Expandable to 1,000 has. P320m² Frontage 1.8kms. 652-0227

40 has P400m² Beside Port of Entry 652-0227

6000sqm Hilly Elevated Manoc-Manoc Boracay 100m from White Sand 0917-6002796 / 1441-886900

Aguinaldo Hway Cor Gov. Dr. 372Ha 1,500/m² 652-0227

Belle Reve Sta. Rosa LA-700sqm • 915-5177

Cavite Light Industrial Park 2yrs To pay w/o Interest Along Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite **Tel 635-8108 - Evelyn**

Nice Lot Nr. New St. Scho. in Sta. Rosa Laguna 6337601/03

Pampanga 27 has along Mac Arthur Hiway 30mins fr Subic, P230/sqm 681-2457• 0917-5413445

•Silang Cavite South Midland 266m²@4200 9310412

Tagaytay City, Bo. Kaybagal 4.5 has at P1,500/sqm, Neg. 681-2457• 0917-5413445

Tagaytay Lot Windsor 240m² P5200 Neg Owner Leaving • Call 746-4772

OTHER AREAS

BFResort LA 260m² 5,500m² NR. ClubHouse 874-9074/75

Hilsboro LA 400m² 7500m² 874-9074/75

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

Townhouse B-New Up & Down LA-50m² FA-45m² w/Prkng Arnel 640-8448 • Text 0917-8349005 (Broker's OK!)

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.8M 3BR 2TB 8428853

MAKATI

3BR3TB Condo Magallanes Tel. 8317881/8311704

Antel Platinum Valero Mktl 40.5m² w/Prkng Lot 658-2115/16

Antel Platinum Condo Valero St. Mkti City Pkg Space 658-2115/16

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANILA

Annapolis Ghills w/View 3BR / 3TB nice • 928-3267

Antel Seaview Roxas Blvd Stud 2.2M terms ok 928-3267

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Wack² Royal Mansion Studio P1.5M 633-7601/03

Wack² Royal Mansion Studio P1.5M 633-7601/03

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D. JUANA PASIG TEL 915-5177

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Offc Condo 220m² w/2 Prkg Tektite Raquel • 634-1212

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VV5 Luxury Townhomes, 3BR, Attic, FA256sqm, 3pkng P8.5 Rush 681-2457

VV6 VernidaTownhomes, 3BR, Attic, FA207sqm, 2pkng P7M 681-2457• 0917-5413445

Parc Royale 1Bdrm Furn. 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

Renaissance 2000 Ortigas Bnew, FF Grg 658-2115/16

QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

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QUEZON CITY

205 Spk Perez 7401083

SAN JUAN

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HOUSE

LAS PINAS

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SAN JUAN

West Greenhills, LA 976 FA 600 4BR, Den Guest Rm, S-Pool, Lanai, Garden, 7 Car Grge P100T/sqm 6812457

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PROVINCIAL

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BSA Mansion Studio Type 10T Call 751-8342

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Ft. Boni Apovl 3Thse 3BR 2TB 7277506 • 6714421

Pacific Plaza Towers, FA 285sqm, 3BR, Fully Furnished Hi Floor, P110T/Mo. Call 681-2457

Regency Salcedo V. Penthse 125T • 915-5177

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Renaissance 2000 Brand New FF w/Prkng Call 658-2115/16

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QUEZON CITY

2BR W/ Parking Front Ateneo P20T/Mo. 633-7601/03

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SAN JUAN

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OTHER AREAS

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402.50SQM Ortigas 350/SQM W/Aircon Call 815-0298

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G/F Ayala Ave. 818-1696

MegaPlaza-Ortigas 30-70Sqm 350/Sqm 815-0298

Prestige Tower Ortigas 150SQM/97SQM Call 815-0298

Prestige Tower-Ortigas 60-150Sqm 815-0298

Salcedo Makati 100sqm 25T/mo. W/pkg Tel 815-0298

Shaw Blvd-Ortigas 80-100 Sqm 380Sqm 815-0298

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **VIDAL DE VERA ANGELES** was settled extrajudicially by his heirs before Notary Public Jose C. Reyes under Doc. No. 229, Page No. 20, Book No. VII, Series of 2000 (PDI-July 18,25 & Aug.1,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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email: gasendo@aol.com

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movimondo

MOVIMONDO- Italy is implementing a project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) entitled: "*Relief and Humanitarian Operations in Support of the Returnees, Displaced by the Insurgency in the Province of Lanao del Norte, Mindanao, Philippines:*"

PROJECT N°ECHO/PHL/210/2000/002001

INVITATION TO BID FOR

- Agricultural Inputs
- Agricultural Implements

TENDER DOCUMENTS

The tender dossier is available for collection at following mail address:

MOVIMONDO, P.O. Box # 13117
GSIS Post Office, Carmen 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel/Fax:+63-63-341-5753; Call 00917-7416322/
9500173; E-mail movifil@iligan.wobling.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

August 10,2001 at 12.00 am. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.

TENDER OPENING SESSION

On August 13,2001 at 10.00 am at Movimondo Field Office, Poblacion, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte- 9205 Philippines Tel/Fax:+63-63-2239716; Call 00917-7416322/9500173; E-mail movifil@iligan.wobling.com
From July 9, 2001

For purpose of securing a copy of the bidding requirements, please write us at the address: MOVIMONDO Field Office, Poblacion, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte- 9205 Philippines; Email: movifil@iligan.wobling.com.

(Sgd.) **ENRICO CAMPIGLIA**
Manager

(PDI--July 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 2001)

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CP # 0919-3949151

◈ ***RISE CHIT-PANDACAN***
Ms. Necita D. Salivio
1944 A. Sampaguita St., Pandacan, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 561-6605

◈ ***RISE Commonwealth Group***
Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: (02) 932-2490 / 428-0840

◈ ***RISE Global City Taguig***
Ms. Regina C. Velasco
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Metro Manila Tel. Nos.: (02) 838-7883
CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289

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Tel No.: (02) 330-9259 / CP # 0917-5401634

◈ ***RISE Project 8, Quezon City***
Ms. Rosario E. Ranoa
106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
Tel No.: (02) 454-0619 / 454-0600 / CP # 0917-3502595
Fax: (02) 927-2314 Email: rrreds@pacific.net.ph

◈ ***RISE Diliman, Quezon City***
Tel No.: (02) 931-8003 / CP # 0917-5209480/8374464

◈ ***RISE E-Novaliches***
Ms. Emma C. Daniel
#223-E General Luis cor. Gold Sts., Novaliches, Q.C.
Tel. # (02) 983-0346, CP # 0919-3082387

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Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
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◈ ***RISE DAGUPAN***
Tonith Bornolla (075) 523-4264/0917-7420556
Imelda Sarmiento (075) 515-6755/
Emily Soriano (075) 515-4066
43 Perez Blvd., Dagupan City CP # 0917-3654775

◈ ***RISE LAGUNA***
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Brgy. Tubigan Biñan, Laguna
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PARTIES INTERESTED TO BECOME BCO in your area, please get assistance from the nearest BCO or visit/contact RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES HEADQUARTERS, Suite1906, Galleria Corporate Center, Ortigas Complex, Quezon City, Tel. No. 687-1737; Telefax: 687-0941, Text #s: 0919-5924258/0919-2123230/0917-6181516

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.
PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc. through its Disposal Committee invites interested buyers to re-bid on any of the items listed below. The submission and opening of bids will be on **July 30, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at 2F PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Location of Properties	*Description*
Brgy. Silang Junction West Tagaytay City	10,000 square meters Lot 9, Pcs 04-000232 TCT No. T-40766
No. 23 4th Avenue Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Cubao District, Quezon City	70 square meters Lot 6-D, Psd-13-003295 TCT No. 208384
Cherry Homes Street, Moonwalk Village, Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque City (land & improvement)	238 square meters with improvements-residential building 3-door apartment type TCT No. 145499, 145500, 145501 145502, 145503, 145504, 145505, 145506
Imperial Royale Townhouse, Barangay Talon Dos (Pamplona) Las Piñas City, Metropolitan Manila	76 square meters; 60 sq. meters floor area one Townhouse unit Lot 15 Block 5, Psd-00-032799 TCT No. 71842

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 20% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check only to the PBAC Secretariat at 2nd Floor, PostalBank Center, Manila.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous.

For further information, please call 5270057, 5270053 loc. 108 or 141.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN A. REMODO**
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI--July 25, 2001)

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3) **Heat Treatment Facility**
4) **Assembly and In-house mold testing facility**

Interested parties may please contact:

E-mail: accontreras@motolite.com
Tel. No.: 412-1048 and Fax No.: 412-1776

THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

National Steel Corporation

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE LEASE OF THE NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION ILIGAN PLANT

Sealed applications for offers for the lease of the Iligan Steel Plant of the National Steel Corporation shall be received at the Office of the Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Industry and Investments Building, 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City on September 21, 2001 no later than 2:00 PM. For purposes thereof, the offer forms and guidelines shall, upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of FORTY THOUSAND PESOS (P40,000.00), be available at National Steel Corporation, Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center, corner Sedeño and Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, with telephone numbers 752-4494 and 752-4497 starting from July 23, 2001.

A pre-offer conference shall be held on August 15, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the Industry and Investments Building, Makati City. All clarifications and inquiries on the Pre-qualifications and Tender Documents shall be made during the said pre-offer conference.

Offers must be accompanied by a proposal bond in an amount set out in the Tender Documents. The proposal bond shall be valid for a period of one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the opening of Offers.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to reject any or all Offers, or to waive any informalities in the Offers received, or to pre-qualify Offerors, and/or accept Offers for the lease of the Iligan Steel Plant, which is (are) complying and most advantageous to the National Steel Corporation.

All communications must be addressed to:

Evaluation Committee
National Steel Corporation
c/o Office of the Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

(Sgd.) **DANILO L. CONCEPCION**
Member, Evaluation Committee

(Sgd.) **GREGORY L. DOMINGO**
Member, Evaluation Committee

(PDI – July 18 & 25, 2001)

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OUR REFERENCE:

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY OF JANITORIAL SERVICES
Invitation for Bids No. C-018-01

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites bonafide bidders for the Supply of Janitorial Services. Interested bidders may inspect the NIA Complex and its facilities located at NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid documents shall be issued from 30 July to 07 September 2001 at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

A Pre-Bidding Conference shall be held on 14 August 2001, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

Bids shall be delivered and publicly opened on 23 August 2001, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL Q. ENRIQUEZ**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--July 19 & 25, 2001)

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"You will forever be in our hearts,

Auntie Ed"

MA. EDITHA RAMOS GARCIA

of Balayan, Batangas

who peacefully joined her Creator on July 25, 1999.

In loving memory of her **Second Death Anniversary**, her loving family, her sister **Ma. Estelle Garcia Ortiz**; her brother **Jose R. Garcia Jr.** and all who knew her in life request renders to join us in remembering her in our prayers. Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

Ortiz Mausoleum, *Himlayang Pilipino*	10:00 AM
Sta. Rita Parish, *Philam Homes, Quezon City*	6:15 AM
Immaculate Conception Church, *Balayan, Batangas*	5:15 AM
St. Joseph Church, *Aurora Boulevard, Project 4, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Sta. Clara Monastery, *Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	6:30 AM
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, (Our Lady of Edsa) *Ortigas*	12:00 NOON
Madonna de la Strada, *La Vista, Katipunan, Quezon City*	6:15 AM
Sto. Niño de Paz Community, *Greenbelt Chapel, Ayala Center*	12:00 NOON/6:30 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 AM
Holy Family Church, *Glendale, CA, USA*	8:00 AM
St. Joseph Church, *Maple Place, Keyport New Jersey, USA*	8:00 AM
Shrine of Immaculate Conception, *Washington DC, USA*	8:00 AM

"The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."
Psalm 23

TERESITA SAYO PADUA

Consultant, Office of the President, Former Assistant Secretary, D.S.W.D., Class 1949, St. Paul College Manila; Theater Artist, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Returned peacefully to her Creator on July 22, 2001, she is survived by her husband **Atty. Buenhijo D. Padua**, former Revenue District Officer; her children **Marivic** and **Benjie Baluyut**, **Pepeton Padua** (†), **Minggoy** and **Aida Padua**, **Cecile** and **Ronnie Carrillo**, and **Toffy Padua**; grandchildren **Crissy**, **Gabby** and **Teddy Boy Baluyut**, **Miggy Boy Padua**, **Patricia** and **Therese Carrillo**; brothers and sisters **Jose** and **Koni Sayo**, **Jaime** and **Lina** (†) **Sayo**, **Carmen Sayo**, **Greta** (†) and **Johnny Ras**, **Nena Sayo** (†), **Cholo Sayo**, and **Anton** and **Mitay Sayo**; parents **Virginia Ll. Sayo** (†), and **Jose V. Sayo** (†).

Her body lies in state at Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Chapel I, Merville Park Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on July 26, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 9:00 AM Mass.

We, the members of the family request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory

On the Sixth Death Anniversary of

ESTELA M. PEÑAFLORIDA

who passed away on 26 July 1995

Masses will be offered Thursday, 26 July 2001 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Merville	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P.	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Pototan, Iloilo	5:30 p.m.
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

MULA SA PAMILYA NI

ROSARIO SALGADO-JOSE†

MARAMING SALAMAT
SA INYONG
MGA DASAL AT
PAKIKIRAMAY.

ERRATUM

The obit ad of **TERESITA SAYO PADUA** (†) which was published yesterday, July 24, 2001 should read as "Consultant, Office of the President, Former Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development".

LIGAYA V. FRUTO

Died on July 18, 2001

Interment will be at
the National Memorial
Cemetery of the Pacific,
Honolulu.

"...absent with the body
to be present with
the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Supreme Court invites local assemblers, manufacturers, its marketing companies and authorized dealers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit Passenger Bus, with passenger bus chassis, sixty (60) seating capacity, diesel engine, air-con sub-engine (diesel), radio-stereo brand new with four-way speakers and sideward sliding windows.

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements, terms and conditions and other particulars from the Secretariat Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court. Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted not later than 2:00 PM, **August 13, 2001** at the same office.

Pre-bid Conference of Pre-qualified bidders will be held on **August 22, 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Second Floor Centennial Building, Supreme Court. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened at the time of the bidding on **August 29, 2001** at 2:00 PM also at the Second Floor Centennial Building to be witnessed by the participating bidders or their authorized representatives.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bids or offers which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

July 24, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committe on Bids

(PDI – July 25, 2001)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme is an integrated rural development project of the Department of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union.

CASCADE

Invitation to contractors to submit Letters of Interest Product Development Programme Expansion

CASCADE will implement a Product Development Programme (PDP) Expansion to provide product specific support to micro-entrepreneurs in the Project area. CASCADE covers the entire province of Nueva Vizcaya, Carranglan in Nueva Ecija and Itogon, Bokod and Kabayan in Benguet.

Organizations are invited to submit letters of interest and track record of the company in micro-enterprise development for the contract entitled "Product Development Programme Planning and Implementation - Expansion Phases". Letters of interest should be submitted no later than 30 July 2001. Full terms of reference and letters of invitation to submit proposals will be issued to selected organizations before 07 August 2001. The successful contractor will be required to provide over 3-year of consultancy services to develop product specific support packages in the CASCADE areas, and provide necessary technical and institutional support. The proposal should include background of the organization, demonstrate the experience of the organization in micro-enterprise development, and confirm the ability of the organization to field capable staff in the CASCADE area.

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. No. (078) 321-2605 & 321-4128
TeleFax No. (078) 321-3611

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 5
San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Office No. V is inviting intereted Suppliers and Manufacturers to Pre-Qualify and Bid for the supply and delivery of the following farm machineries and post harvest equipment:

1. 4 WD Tractors with implements
2. Pump and Engine sets with pipes and accessories
3. Palay Threshers with engine and accessories
4. Corn Shellers with engine and accessories
5. Power Sprayer
6. Power Tiller with implements
7. Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment
8. Workshop Tools and Equipment

Bid forms shall be made available at the PBAC Secretariat at P 1,000.00 Pesos non-refundable amount upon submission of a Letter of Intent, latest License, VAT Registration, Financial Statement and Income Tax Return (last two years) Experience Record on the supply and delivery of said equipment, Latest AMTEC Test Results, Brochures of the Equipment offered and other relevant documents not later than July 30, 2001.

Pre-bidding will be on August 1, 2001 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the DA Library. Submission of bid proposals will be on August 6, 2001 at the same time and place. Opening of bids will follow at the presence of the bidders.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2.5 % of the gross amount of bid prices offered in the form of cash, manager's/cashier's check or bond from the GSIS only (CALLABLE ON DEMAND) or a combination thereof.

The DA reserves that right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and accept the offer most advantageous to the best interest of the government.

(Sgd.) **FE D. LAYSA**
Regional Director

(PDI--July 25, 2001)

Metro Manila JC Senate

VALENCIA

THE METRO Manila JC Senate is inviting all JCI Senators, Spouses & Friends to attend the July 2001 General Membership Meeting at July 25, 11:45 a.m. at the Vincent's Pub & Restaurant, 148 Jupiter Street Bel-Air Village, Makati City.

The guest of honor and speaker will be Dr. Omar Arabia, a noted general practitioner and physical therapist who, for more than a decade, has treated many cancer patients who have opted for non-conventional means. He will discuss the many *alternative* and *natural* means that can *prevent* and *cure* CANCER.

The Metro Manila JC Senate offcers for this year are: JCI Sen. Sergio O. Valencia, President; JCI Sen. Jose A. Ragos, Executive Vice President; JCI Sen. Jose U. Sevilla, Vice President for Metro North; JCI Sen. Felipe V. Briones, Vice President for Metro East; JCI Sen. Roberto M. Laygo, Vice President for Metro South; JCI Sen. Gino A. Baltao, Treasurer; JCI Sen. Mylene M. Dayrit, Secretary General. This year's advisers are JCI Senators Ernesto N. Chua CK, Eduardo J. de Guzman & Louie T. Pabalan, Jr.

For reservations, call the Philippine JC Senate Secretariat @ 373-5819 and 374-4390.

FCMC 1349/2001

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES RULES
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 2155 OF 2001

BETWEEN
LILIAN M. PANGSIW Petitioner
And
ALBERTO A. ASTRONOMO JR. Respondent

NOTICE

A DIVORCE PETITION has been filed against the above named Respondent, **ALBERTO A. ASTRONOMO JR.** whose present address is unknown, who may apply to the Family Court Registry at M2/F, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he fails to communicate with the said Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar

(PDI -- July 25, 2001)

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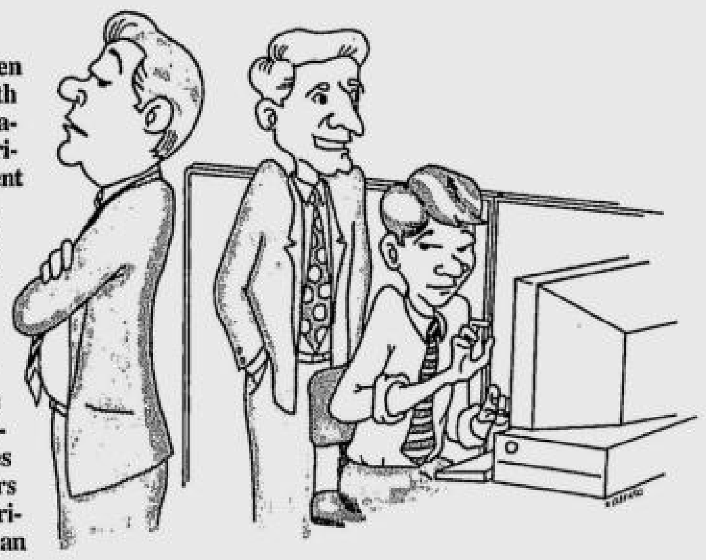
Why do *Pinoy* managers give low performance ratings?

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO



I AM an engineer and have been working for the past 15 years with different big multinational companies here and abroad. I have experienced different types of management and I was able to adjust to different styles and systems because of my attitude of being flexible and creative.

I noticed that when my immediate boss is an expat, my annual job evaluation is high or above average while when my boss is a *Pinoy*, I get only a satisfactory or average rating only. Does this mean that expat managers know how to appreciate the contribution of their employees more than *Pinoy* managers?

Recently, I resigned from my job because I could not accept the rating of my immediate boss who is a *Pinoy*. My experience working with expat managers is that they are not "plastic". They can say right in front of you that you are not doing your job well or that you've done a fantastic performance. Please explain why this is so.

Disgusted Employee

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

It is unfortunate that your experiences on performance appraisal with *Pinoy* bosses are less than satisfactory when compared to expat managers. In my work experience, I have encountered both *Pinoy* and expat managers who are good and fair raters but there are some who are also very subjective and biased ones. So, I will not be quick to generalize on *Pinoy* versus expat bosses.

On the other hand, some of our cultural characteristics may make it difficult for a *Pinoy* boss to give "the message straight" to an employee being appraised. For a *Pinoy* manager, performance appraisal is not an event that one looks forward to during the year. One acts like a coach for one year and then, sits as critic and a judge during appraisal time.

Lack of candor

One characteristic is our lack of candor. In our desire to maintain smooth interpersonal relationships, we may not say what we mean directly. This tendency can cause problems. Often, employees appraised poorly would remark, "Why do you tell me only now? You should have told me earlier so I have a chance to improve my performance."

A *Pinoy* manager may hesitate to confront negative situations or give unpleasant feedback. But with proper assertiveness training, one can give criticism at a professional level without becoming personal.

Another characteristic is our tendency to be quick with criticism but slow to compliment. We also hear employees say, "We do 10 good things but we hear no praise from our bosses. We do one thing badly and we never hear the end of it in criticism." Praise for work well done is very gratifying and can keep an employee motivated for days. If we do have to criticize or give negative feedback, let us make sure that we show the employee the alternative way of saying or doing. We also know there are exceptional employees who do not know how to handle praise. They get bloated egos and overestimate their achievements but they are rare. Every manager has to know what strokes work for particular folks.

Lack of diligence

A third characteristic is our lack of diligence. Sometimes, bosses may lack the diligence to create and agree with employees on clear, precise and specific job objectives and standards. In other words, the scorecard for judging performance may be unclear. In this instance, the superior may evaluate the employee only from gut feel level or on the basis of their work relationship. There is a greater chance for subjectivity to get into the appraisal process.

But don't despair. The next time you work with a *Pinoy* manager, you can initiate the discussion of your own performance scorecard so that expectations are clear from the onset. You may in fact be a blessing to your boss, as he learns a lesson or two from you on sound management. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. For comments, feedback or advice for problems at work, you can send e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Are you postponing your happiness?

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

IT SEEMS that we "hit the nail right on the head" when we discussed the topic "Procrastination" in last week's edition of our Workshop on Managing Time to Achieve Life Goals and Be Happy. We got e-mail and text messages thanking us for the *timely* reminder.

The IT expert of First Philippine Holdings Corporation, Ralf Nabong, sent me a guilt-trip e-mail and I am paraphrasing it and adding my own thoughts to it. Here it is:

You convince yourself that life will be better after you grow up, finish schooling, get a job, embark on a career, have lots of friends, get married, have a baby, then another. Then, you grow up and get frustrated with your pimply face, Bugs Bunny teeth, bad hair, wide hips, small boobs, thick waist, etc. The other girl or boy always looks better than you, it seems.

Then, you get your high school and college diplomas. For some of you, I know you even get degrees in graduate and post graduate school. You wish you had gone to a better school. You wish you had a good balance of academic, extracurricular, social and even romantic life in campus. You wish you had the gumption to ask your "crush" to your grad party. The other student seems to get better grades, are noticed by the campus heartthrobs and do their school work quite easily.

Immediately after graduation, you land a job but you are frustrated to get one beneath your educational preparation and expectations. You hope that your boss will notice your performance and give you due recognition and rewards of promotions and pay increases. The other jobs seem more substantial and rewarding. The other offices seem to have greener pasture for a driven, qualified employee like you.

Then you get married. Ewwww! You have to put up with this person all throughout your life? As they say, you'll never get to know a person until you wake up in the morning after. "Is this the person I married?" you ask. You convince yourself that the Pygmalion Effect will work for you and your spouse. Your friend's spouse seems to be more personable, more thoughtful, more successful, more loving, more dependable, and so on and so forth.

Then you have children. One girl, then another one. So you try again and again and again until you have five, all girls. You complain about waking up in the middle of the night to change diapers or feed the baby. You complain when they run around the house demolishing everything along the way including your priceless angel collection. You complain about bringing them to school in the early morning and fetching them in the afternoon. You complain about the spiraling cost of tuition fees. You complain about your ever-increasing expenses for food, groceries, utilities, clothes, vacations, car, house rental and many others. The other family seems to be better off than yours; they seem to live in better circumstances than you do.

You have friends with whom you go with on nights out, go shopping, watch movies, share jokes, unburden your problems, ask for small and immediate financial assistance, burn the telephone wires all evening, exchange juicy news bits about other people, exchange tips about boyfriends, spouse, children, and many others. The other's friends seem to be more helpful and giving.

Now, as you look back to your past life, you didn't really get the short end of happiness. You have wonderful parents, relatives, friends, spouse, children, education, job, career and many more. Yet, you feel that there is something lacking in your life.

I know what it is—you have been postponing being happy with your life. You think you are not happy until you get all the things you want.

You see, happiness is never achieved in terms of time. The tick-tock of the clock, the ringing of the alarm and the signal of the timer are just reminders of the passing of time. The seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years are but milestones and measures of time.

There is no best time to be happy than now. Treasure and savor every moment of life and you shall never again look at your watch again. When you procrastinate, you postpone being happy.

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos @Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

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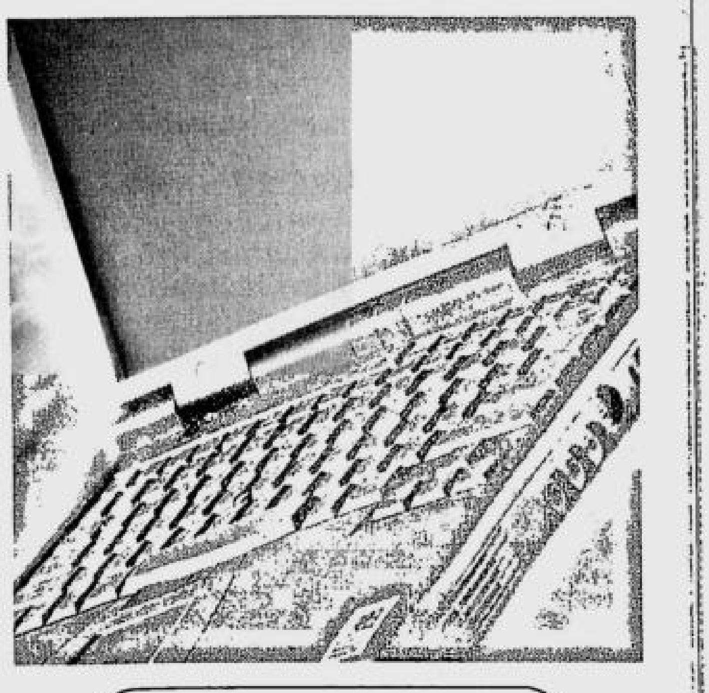

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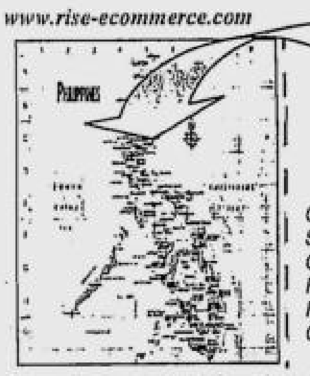

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Seaman faces challenges on the high seas

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

CAREER*Tales*

A DESIRE for adventure led Henry Cañaveral to a career on the high seas. For even during his boyhood days in Tanjay, Dumaguete, his birthplace, Cañaveral, already afflicted with wanderlust, would often flee to neighboring islands in search of adventure. Today, he is a veteran seaman.

Practicality was also a major factor in his decision to become a professional seaman. "I wanted to be an engineer. But my parents could not afford to send me to college," he says. Cañaveral realized he had to pursue a shorter, less expensive course—one that offered immediate job opportunities so that he could support himself and help his parents. As an alternative, he decided to take up Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation at the Concord Technical Institute in Cebu City.

First break

After graduation, he had a year's apprenticeship with a shipping company, a requirement, and then took the board in 1983. Though he passed it, at the time, economic conditions were grim and opportunities for professional advancement were scarce. For three years, Cañaveral floated and floundered, doing odd jobs in order to earn a living.

His first break came in 1987 when, through the help of a brother-in-law, a long-time seaman, he was able to secure a job with Easter Shipping, where he stayed for three months, part of a crew of a cargo boat that traveled between Japan and the Philippines.

Chief mate

Following this short stint, Cañaveral joined a Greek-owned shipping firm, El Greco. Starting out as an O.S. (ordinary seaman), he eventually became second mate. Seven years later in 1995, he transferred to Magsaysay Shipping where he is still working.

PHOTO BY VAL HANDUMON

CAÑAVERAL

Today at 45 years old and after 14 years in the trade, Cañaveral is chief mate, which is only a heartbeat away from being a captain. He serves in cargo vessels contractually, spending 10 months onboard and taking off a break during the remaining two. "It's a different vessel every time," he says. Once in a while, you chance upon the same one. "If the owners or management request to have you." Prior to coming home last May, Cañaveral served as chief mate of Glory Island, a Japanese ship.

As chief mate, Cañaveral is in charge of the management and safety of the crew, loading and unloading of all cargo, maintenance of the vessel and dealing with port authorities. Strictly speaking, it's an eight-hour job. "But I work 24 hours during loading operations and in case of emergencies."

A single 10-month run, according to Cañaveral, can cover as many as 10 ports of call. "It depends on the cargo." You could be at sea for the longest time. "The longest period I've experienced was 37 days straight from San Francisco, US to Mombasa, South Africa."

Dangers at sea

Seemingly interminable days at sea are sometimes interrupted by danger. Despite the exotic ports of call and the so-called romance on the high seas, Cañaveral contends that the life of a seaman has its perils. "You always pray for safety because every time you travel, there is some risk involved," he says. Of course, this has been greatly minimized by modern technology, which now employs satellite facilities, putting a premium on safety.

But dangers persist. Often they emanate from nature. Cañaveral recalls an encounter with huge waves in Alaska in the winter of '96.

Sea pirates also pose a danger. "You find them mostly in Southeast Asia and South America," says Cañaveral, pointing out that pirates usually hide in small islands and use a speedboat to catch their victims. "They're armed while we're not because we are not allowed to have firearms onboard. We fight them with fire hoses."

Comfortable life

Generally, a seaman earns more than he would on another kind of job. Overall, says Cañaveral, life at sea is good, comfortable. "We have five-star amenities and everything is free." But there is one setback. Life at sea can be lonely. "You have to be busy and constantly preoccupied," says Cañaveral, who, despite being used to being away from his family, still experiences bouts of utter homesickness, especially in the dead of night when there is nothing but the sea and the silence. He avers he fends off loneliness by watching movies on videotapes and VCDs.

Cañaveral makes the most of his two-month annual vacation, spending it with his family in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, where they live. He and his wife, a doctor working in a health center, have three daughters, ages 12, 9 and 7. "Though I've been married for 15 years," he says, "if I sum it up, I've been with my family for only five." The seaman hopes to retire in Iligan someday. "Perhaps buy a farm and plant mangoes."

Bigger dreams

At this point though, Cañaveral is certainly a long way from retirement. Evidently, he has bigger dreams. He looks forward to being captain before finally signing off from shipboard duty. After all, he says, the captain is the highest authority at sea.

Cañaveral, who has been everywhere, will soon resume his tour of duty. He will fly to Japan to join his ship. Again, it promises to be a long stretch. But he claims he has wonderful memories to accompany him wherever he goes. Sometimes it's enough to compensate for all the hard times at sea.

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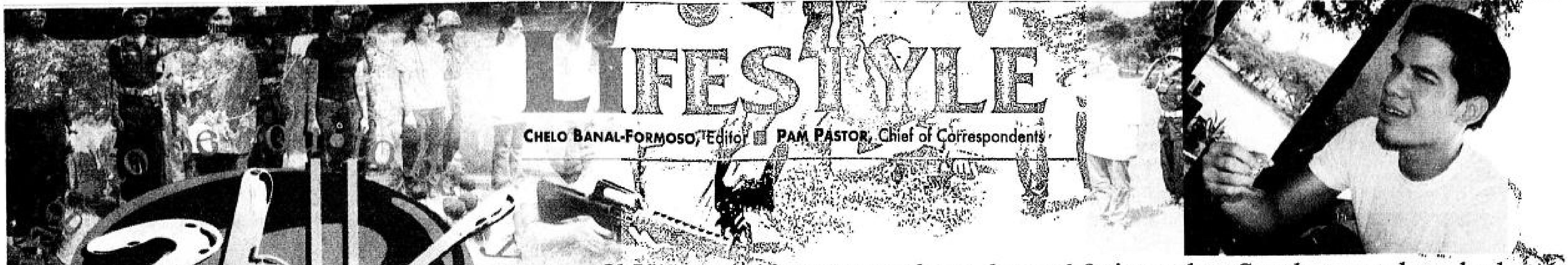

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

2bU!'s female correspondents donned fatigues last Sunday, got drenched in sweat and splattered with mud, to find out what the ROTC hoopla is all about

2bU! To be you! takes ROTC

WE were wracking our brains for a good ROTC feature. But since most of the members of the 2bU! staff are female (biological or otherwise), we weren't exactly experts on the subject. Almost everything we knew about ROTC was based on stories from our brothers, boyfriends, guy friends, fathers or newspapers. How could we write about ROTC unless we fully immersed ourselves in the system?

The idea dawned on Tammy over dinner at Friday's. 2bU! will have a mock ROTC training. Most of us were enthusiastic, except Jason who was giving us dagger looks ("ROTC was a traumatic experience for me."). And Jules who had to see her brother off to Europe (great excuse for the most non-outdoorsy person in the group). And Maui who "had to study for an exam" (okay, we believe you).

After the birth of the idea, the next steps were difficult.

Our venue of choice was UP Diliman, known for its exemplary ROTC course. With the help of JingJing Romero, we didn't have to settle for Luneta. (Yes, we were actually considering it.)

We wanted celebrity participants, personalities who would take the plunge with us. But they all cowered away. Only one brave man promised to join the group, model/actor Ced Carion.

Next on the list, officers. Master Sgt. Jafruts, C/SSgt. UP-ROTC NCO from UP Manila, volunteered, along with his two friends, Ryan V. Mamonluk (A-COM XSCAT-I) and John Paul Santos (C/TSGT UP ROTC NCO from UP Diliman). Master Sgt. Jafruts, seemingly eager to start on his role as the officer from hell, texted his platoon-to-be the night before the training. "Bring extra clothes and rubber shoes. And brush up on first aid."

The next morning, ironically the day of the

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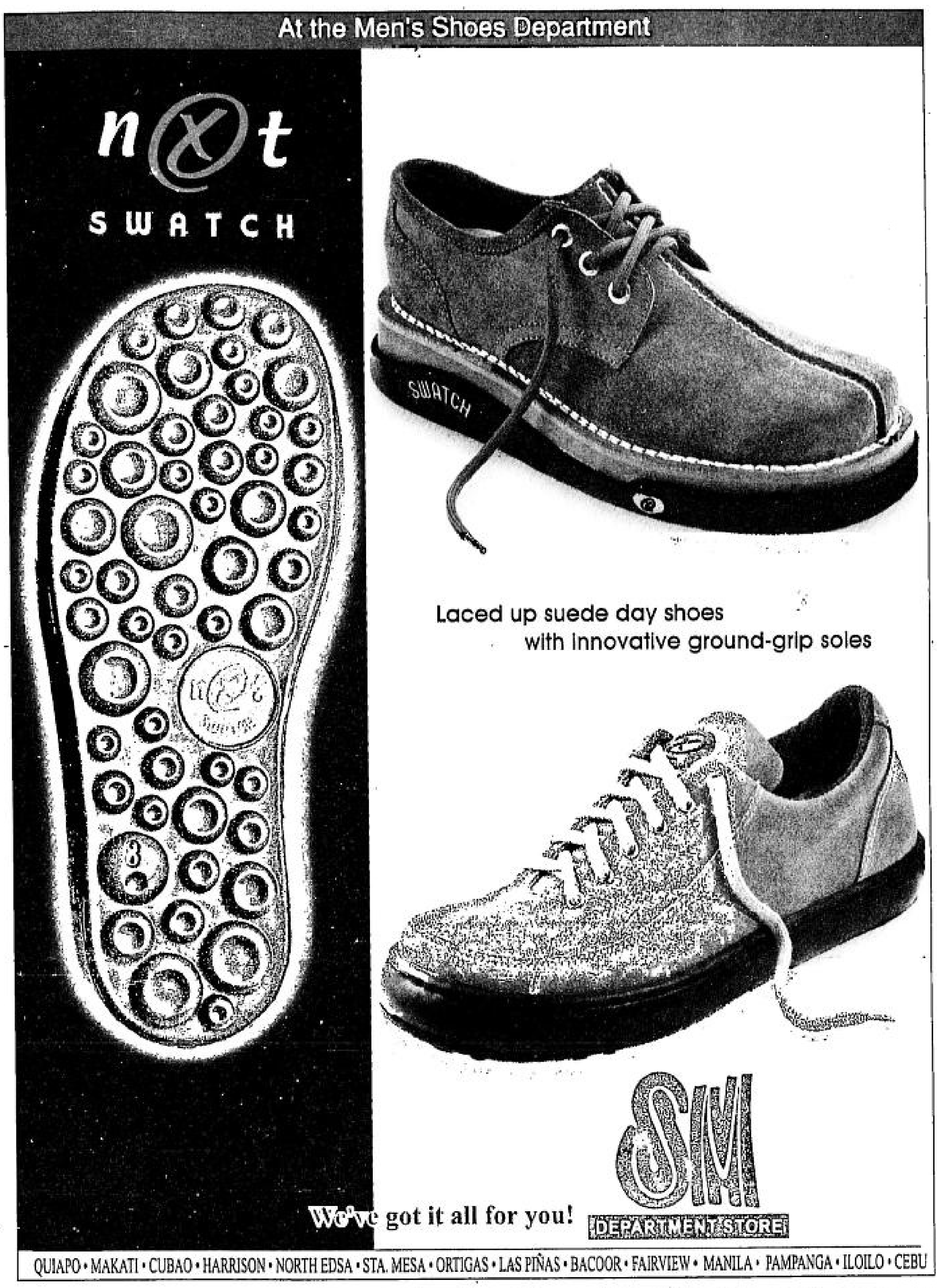

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ROTC bytes

TACTICAL officer Mike Arribas (on cadets who refuse to rappel from trees): "There is nothing wrong with being afraid."

Capt. Roland Rodil (on the plan to abolish ROTC): "Okay, let them abolish it. But what will they put in its place? Let's take a simplistic scenario. The purpose of ROTC is to provide the country with a strong citizenry. Without it, our neighbors can easily take over."

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To be you

Fun for one time

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When we got to UP, we didn't really start with our training since we had to wait for more people. Our platoon consisted of six people, all still sleepy from the early morning wake-up call of duty. I didn't know what we were getting into, but I thought, what could go wrong? I'm pretty sure this ROTC thing would be a breeze and that guys were just naturally whiners.

Oops. I had to bite my tongue when we started training. The officer-in-charge made us jog around the Sunken Garden and later wade in knee-deep of mud (okay, I'm exaggerating). He made us march around under the blazing heat of the tropical sun and do push-ups on the grass.

After all the marching and chanting "1, 2, 3, 4, *tapsilog* and Eskimo," (we were told it alleviated the tired feeling you get from marching and jogging), I thought the officer had thought it was time to wrap up the training session. I still can't get over the fact that I could not even follow a simple command like *tumalikod rap* because I keep forgetting to only turn when the *rap* is screamed.

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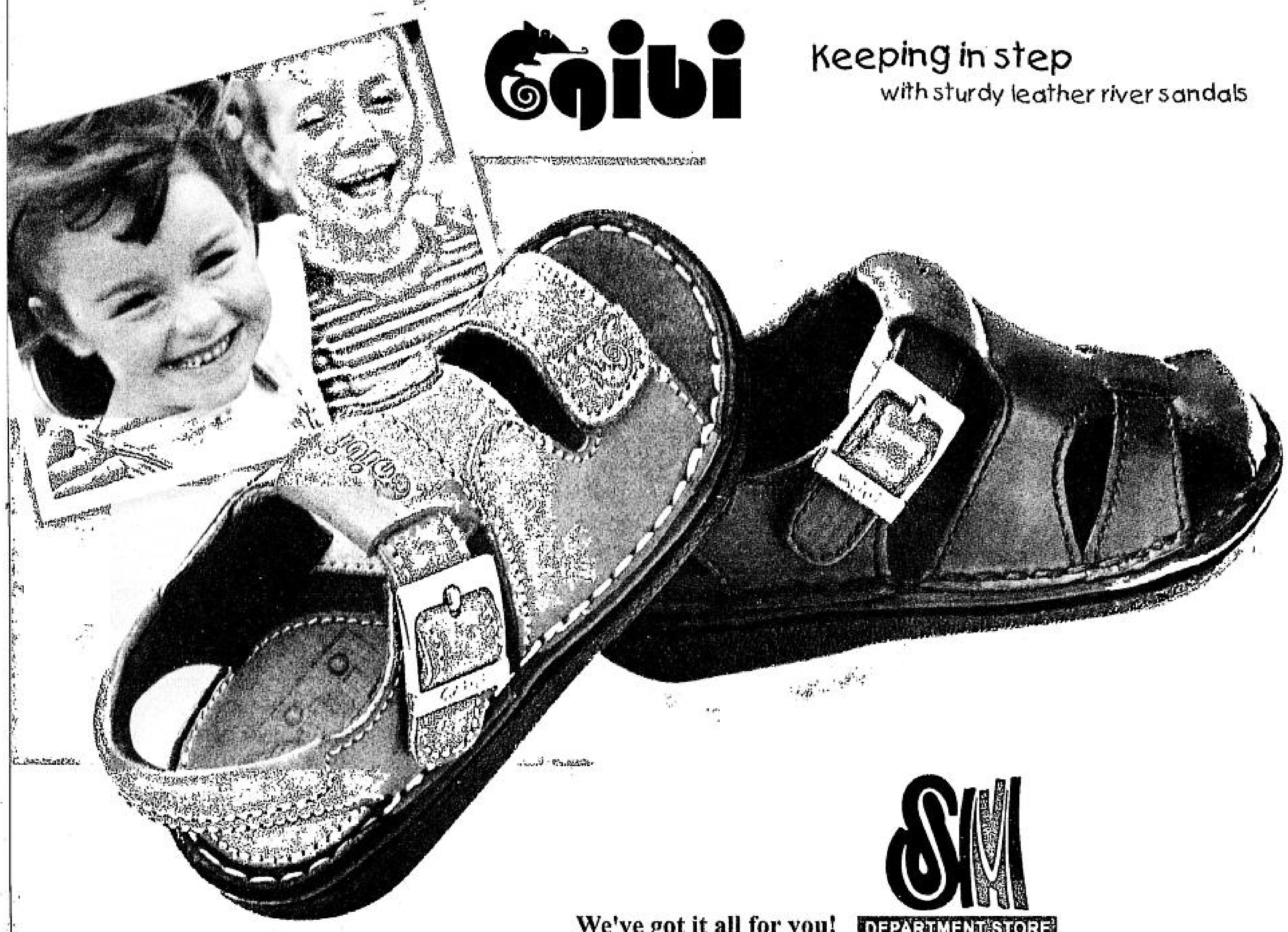
Kellyn See

At the Children's Shoes Department



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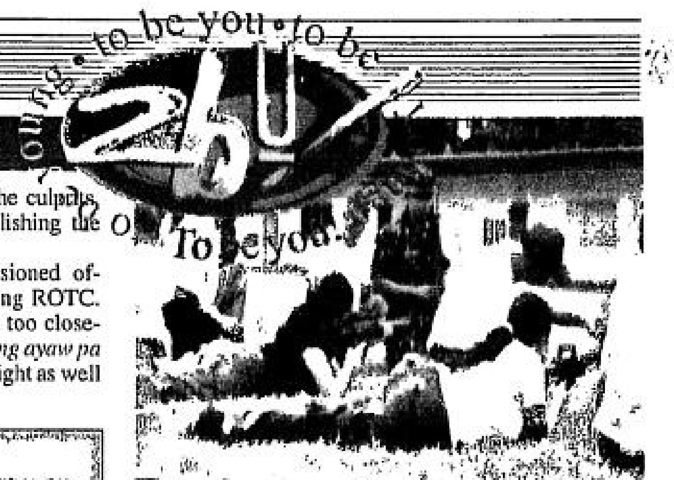
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2bU takes ROTC

(From page C1)

supposed "biggest ROTC walkout in Manila," things didn't look too bright. The photographer was nowhere to be seen. Other participants backed out. Some failed to wake up. We refused to give up. With only six platoon members, three officers and Tammy's reliable camera, we proceeded with the training.

Crash course

The supposed four-hour mock training turned into much more than that. After Jayvi's killer workout, the muddy and sweaty 2bU! staff was welcomed by the officers of the UP ROTC. Instead of just taking pictures with real cadets as planned, the 2bU! correspondents ended up receiving a crash course from different officers.

Capt. Roland Rodil, assistant commandant and de facto commandant for the day, gave us the basics. C/Pvt. (3rd Class) John Christian Tizon guided us from one unit to another. Cadet Privates Oscar Mangubat Jr., Kevin Manansala, Walbert Elicort and Earl Ongiwes taught Pam and Happy how to aim at targets and shoot with the rifles.

Next, tactical officer Mike Arribas showed Happy, Cher and Kellyn how to rapell from a tree. We then formed a seven-man team with cadet privates BJ Raz, Narciso Adiaz III and Justin Gonzales and practiced walking around with our rifles, waiting for the enemy. Master Sgt. Cenas watched over us and gave us more tips on the proper handling of the guns.

The group left UP tired but with heads swimming with information. Over lunch at Cravings, we told and retold stories about the entire day.

What exactly did our mock training teach us about ROTC? Read on.

For some reason, my grandma did not think anything was weird when I told her I would be going for ROTC that Sunday morning. The night before, I texted Master Sgt. Jafruts. "Be tough *ha*." His reply: "Tough *lang*? I was hoping for evil." That should have warned me.

My brother and boyfriend didn't like the idea at all. They thought I was nuts for being excited. "You're crazy," my 16-year-old brother said, shaking his head at me, making me feel as if he was older. "You'll regret this."

My boyfriend, knowing my bullheadedness, reminded me nonstop to behave. "Don't provoke them to punish you. If they hurt you, text me *agad*."

I actually thought they were being funny. What could be so hard about one morning of training? Hours later, red-faced, muddy and sweating like hell, I finally understood what they meant. My whole body was a mass of pain, and my ponytail was no longer perky.

I was the most ignorant person in the group. I had absolutely no knowledge in what was about to happen since my all-girls Catholic high school didn't believe in CAT. I've never marched in my life. But I was determined to face everything. This was, after all, for the love of 2bU!

Master Sgt. Jafruts transformed from Mr. Nice Guy to officer from hell in a matter of few minutes.

I have to admit, in the beginning, we weren't taking it seriously. Happy and I couldn't stop guffawing because none of us was brave enough to shout despite our officer's instruction to do it loud. All thoughts of laughing, though, dissolved when I saw Master Sgt. Jafruts getting pissed.

So we focused. We did side benders, barrel twists, push-ups (okay, just two), stretches and I started to realize how out-of-shape I was. Then he made us jog around the Sunken Garden.

"Jogging" is a very deceptive word. It makes you think about people looking good, running around in their short shorts, hair bouncing, headphones blaring—that was not the case with us. I found myself cursing the people who were having picnics around the Sunken Garden. How dare they have fun while we were being tortured!

We were huffing and puffing and on the verge of collapsing. I was not at all surprised. The last time I ran was two years ago. Streaked with mud, the sun roasting me alive, I realized with horror I was stuck there for the next few hours. This was Jane Fonda from hell!

We were allowed a five-minute break. But what good was that when you were not allowed to sit down?

Master Sgt. Jafruts taught us the basic commands. We marched, we turned, we saluted, we jogged again, we chanted. Since my brother's pants were a bit too long for me, I kept stepping on the ends while trying to turn, almost toppling over a few times.

I am not at all squeamish about mud, but getting stuck there in the muck while the other members marched and the officers barked "Alignment! Alignment!" was not a good experience. To add to that I had the sniffles and I was constantly pulling my hanky out and wiping my nose without letting the officers see.

I was failing the challenge miserably. And I didn't even care anymore. I wanted to crawl back into my bed. No, actually, even the grass looked heavenly. I wanted to lie on it. I was ready, absolutely ready, to denounce ROTC.

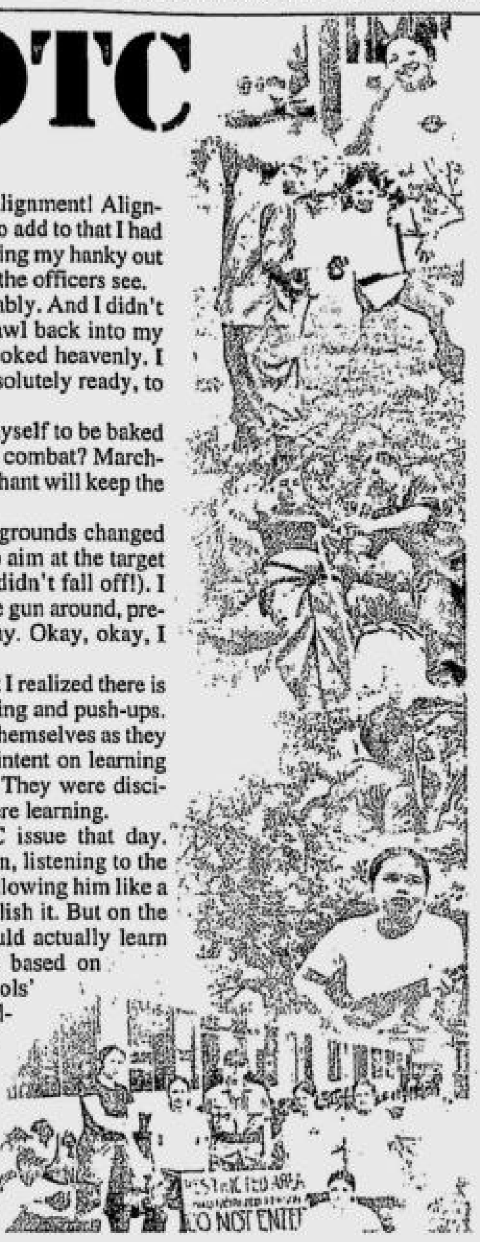
This is it? Asking me to allow myself to be baked by solar rays is going to help me in combat? Marching to the right beat and learning to chant will keep the enemies at bay? I don't think so.

Our visit to the real UP ROTC grounds changed my mind. I had fun learning how to aim at the target with the rifle (the 25-centavo coin didn't fall off!). I enjoyed walking around, lugging the gun around, pretending to be hunting for the enemy. Okay, okay, I am such a guy.

But it was during these hours that I realized there is so much more to ROTC than squatting and push-ups. I saw young men actually enjoying themselves as they rappelled from trees. I saw people intent on learning how to hold rifles the proper way. They were disciplined, they were focused—they were learning.

I saw two sides of the ROTC issue that day. Under the sun in the Sunken Garden, listening to the officer's barking commands and following him like a dog, I saw why people want to abolish it. But on the UP ROTC grounds, I saw one could actually learn from ROTC. (This, of course, is based on what I witnessed in UP. Other schools' ROTC programs are not as developed and intensive, according to many.) I realized why other people wanted to maintain it. One day of sweltering heat and sweating has not turned me into an expert, but somehow I now understand.

Pam Pastor



Little taste for RO

A FRIEND once asked me if I was going to pay off officers to be able to graduate from the ROTC. I said no, I'd rather deal with it and use the money for CDs. Besides, it's wrong. But after last Sunday's experience, it made me think twice.

I had a little taste of it. It made me want to do CAT three times a week instead of ROTC once a month! I was the first (actually the only one) in the so-called Platoon 2bU! to yell, after jogging, "Sir, dying, sir!"

What's worse was our dear commander yelled back, "Already?" when I was practically purple, gasping for air.

I also had a taste of the Dead Sea when I had to lick my sweat from my upper lip a million times when the commander didn't permit me to wipe my sweat. ("Wipe your sweat? Forget it!")

While we jogged, we were instructed to chant this "*tapsilog*" song while our stomachs were grumbling. When it was all over finally, water never tasted so good. I looked as if I took a dip from Willy Wonka's chocolate river with mud all over me.

After the grinding session, we were rewarded with lots of fresh pastries and a visit to a place that made us all feel good after, the UP Vanguard.

Almost everybody there had a straight face and they were damn serious with what they were doing. At first I pitied the cadets who were spending their Sunday mornings squatting, saluting and staying under the sun instead of watching TV or sleeping in a soft bed (he-he, *buti na lang babae ako*). But I turned green with envy upon observing that most of them were physically fit and were having a good time doing tricks with their riffles and rapelling from a tree.

I think that ROTC is not a waste of time and money if you take away the corruption, the intimidation and the power-tripping of officials. I think the government should provide the cadets with the materials (like fatigues!) needed since they're doing it for the country. I also think it would be better if ROTC were held every Friday or any weekday instead of Sunday or Saturday when the cadets should be catching up on homework and spending time with their families.

Tammy David

No place for girls

HOW I wish I were a boy. Why do girls have to suffer periods, go through the labors of childbirth and be treated as the weaker sex?

We face so many restrictions. We're assumed to be all soft, fragile creatures that constantly have to be helped and cared for. Defenseless.

Despite my friends' warnings, I gladly accepted the chance to prove how tough we could also be, that we were the equals of males. To really get the feel of things, we had to come in real ROTC attire.

It had been three years since I last wore my fatigues. This was a great excuse to wear the too-expensive fatigues.

At 7:35 a.m., dressed in fatigues and with my extra clothes, shoes, bottle of water, atomizer, cap and jacket all packed in a bag, I was ready. Forget breakfast, Tammy was already in the car with our brother. We picked up Cher and slathered sunblock on our faces and arms. We were going to be out in the sun from 8 a.m.-12 nn. It wasn't because of vanity, but because we didn't want to get skin cancer.

The others were late. I was getting uneasy. I wondered what was going on in the minds of these officers. Panic washed over me. We couldn't wait anymore. I figured with the extra time we were giving the officers, they could be thinking of new ideas to make us pay for the wait. We really had to start.

My hopes were dashed. I was wishing for a bigger platoon where you could just blend in, make mistakes and go unnoticed. There was no escape. And being the only one in black was a big mistake. We were made to form one line. There was no place to hide, we were all exposed. We started with exercises. We were expected to count aloud to keep track of the number of times we do them.

We did side benders first. It was simple, but I was worried. Count aloud? The officers were guys. Should I lower my voice to match theirs, or should I just stay within my own pitch and just sound like a regular girl? I was confused. Our counts came out as mumbles. We were all half-heartedly doing it.

We were threatened with punishments. Punishments usually meant push-ups, but since we couldn't do them, nothing happened.

I had to admit it. We were just starting, but the heat was killing me already.

Thank God for my twice-a-week aerobics classes that kept me going. All I had in my head the whole time was the image of me slipping face flat on the mud. We switched to marching next.

The chants were supposed to make things a lot easier. But with the absurd chants we were made to repeat ("I want to be an es-kee-mooh!!!... *Longsilog, long-gani-sa, si-na-ngang at it-log*"), how was I expected to keep a straight face, keep up the cadence of the jog while watching out for possible ruts where my foot to get stuck in?

We were taught only a total of eight commands and we couldn't even do them. I mixed up *kanan* and *kaliwa*. I felt so ashamed and couldn't wait to leave. It had only been a little over an hour and we were giving up.

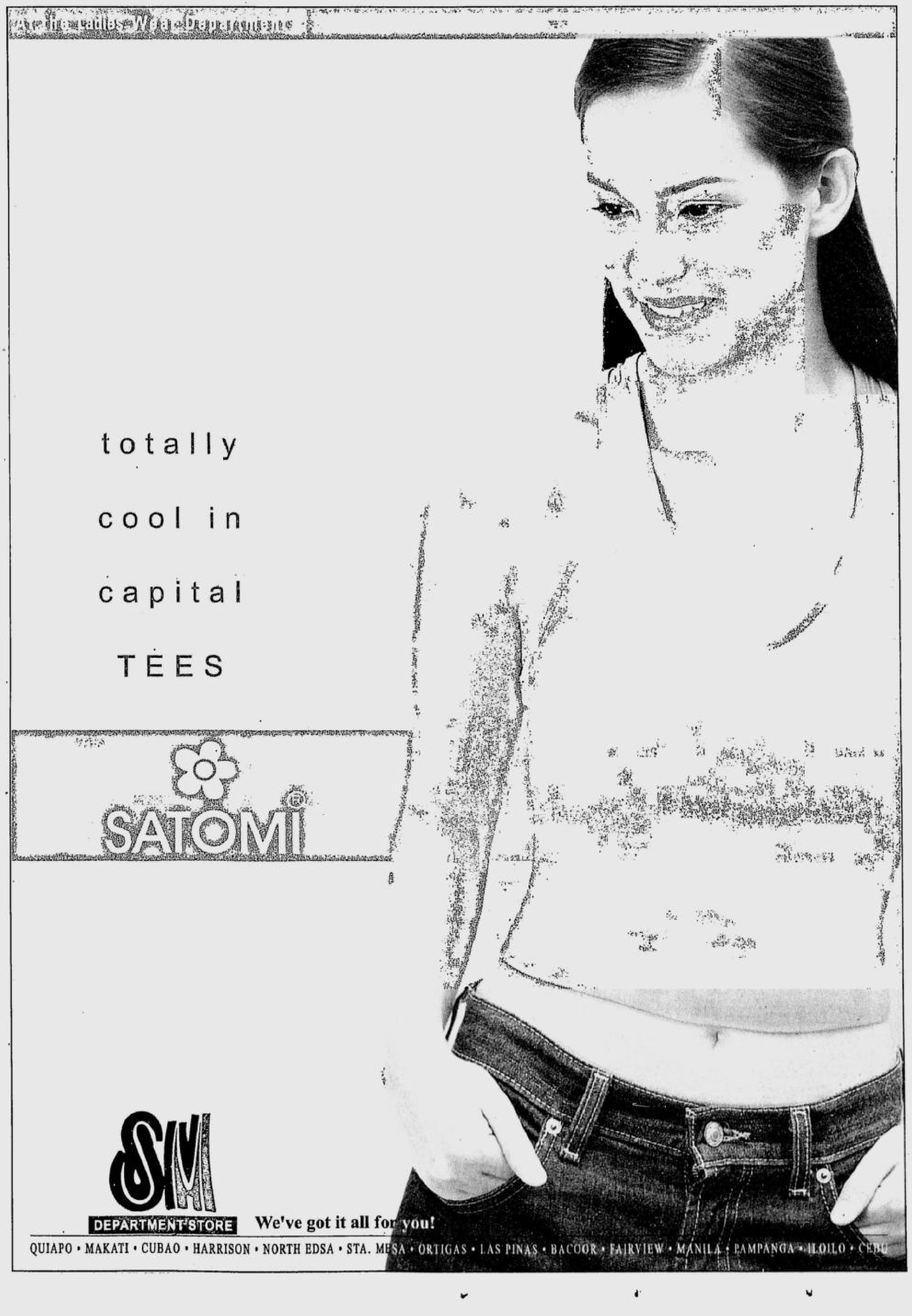
At the Department of Military Science and Tactics, we were taught how to handle the rifle and aim. It took me a while to balance the coin that was supposed to make me balance my grip. I felt embarrassed being given all the extra attention and consideration. Were they waiting for me to make a mistake?

We tried rapelling. We were given a makeshift harness to wear, had to climb the tree and rappel down. It was okay because I had done wall-climbing before, but the insect-infested tree distracted me. We were allowed to cut in on all the other cadets.

We tried scouting. I felt like a duck. Having to walk around with a rifle in an awkward crouching position waiting for the unseen enemy. It was cool at first. But after a while it got boring and the rifle seemed to be getting heavier.

At the end of the experience I recalled my guy friends' own experiences. I realized how lucky and how much fun we had trying out new things. But the girl in me just came out. We enjoyed ROTC because we were allowed to do selected exercises at our own pace, given more understanding and exempted from the punishments. But imagine having to do all of those every Saturday or Sunday for two years straight? I think I'd have to beg off. Leave it to the boys. I'm happy I'm a girl.

Happy David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Worse than CAT

AFTER OUR CAT graduation last March, I thought I would never ever have to undergo any more of those grueling marches, I-barely-made-it-push-ups and thigh-burning squats. I had no idea that I would actually ever participate in ROTC. That Sunday morning, I casually put on my old corps shirt, worn blue jeans and my old white rubber shoes, thinking it would be just like any other ordinary Friday afternoon in CAT.

It was that, and much worse.

Our commander proceeded to give us a series of drills: squats, push-ups, mock mountain-climbing, bend-and-reaches—all under the sweltering heat and on soft muddy ground. Things turned from bad to worse when we were told to jog around the Sunken Garden in cadence despite the soft and wet earth squishing and sinking further underneath the rhythmic patter of our rubber-soled shoes. Our jeans were soiled and we were sweating profusely by the time we completed the round.

It was time for marching. It was really difficult to maintain cadence and exhibit snappy movements though, and I could only swallow my complaints and stare straight ahead, allowing beads of sweat to freely trickle down my forehead, nose and cheeks simultaneously. Since we were only six, our eagle-eyed tyrannical commander and his two sidekicks had no trouble spotting our mistakes and making us repeat the commands over and over again. I couldn't imagine how the college boys undergoing ROTC could feel anything else but loathe and disgust for their ROTC sessions. It was hell. When we finally made it to "*lumansag*" (disperse), we all ran to the grandstand, gulped down our bottles of mineral water and poured alcohol all over our hands and arms. It was finally over. Our commander and his sidekicks asked us if we were okay, and they now seemed so different from the same people trying to "kill" us earlier.

There was ROTC actually going on in another part of the campus and we all had the opportunity to observe and participate. It felt like we were at war, scrounging around looking for the enemies.

When it was time for us to go, I felt as though there was still so much that I wanted to learn. We all unanimously agreed that we had fun except for the first part when we were treated as cadets deprived of our rights. But that was the whole essence of ROTC, and it's hard not to imagine where the large-scale controversy right now is coming from.

Cheryl Tiu

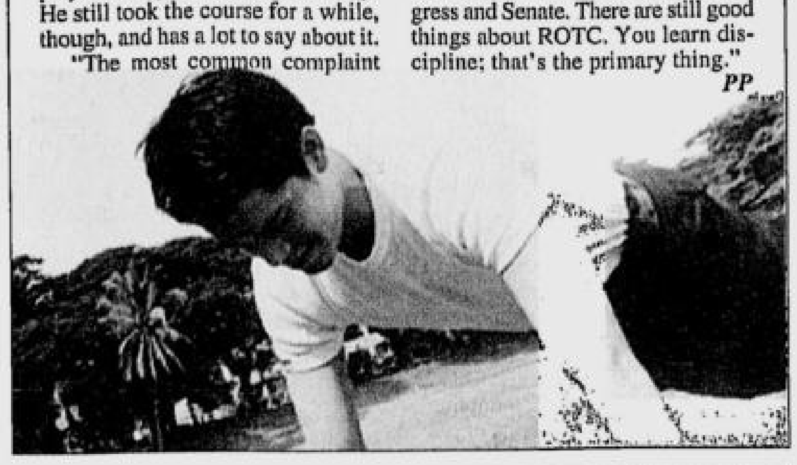
PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID
LOCATION: UP SUNKEN GARDEN AND DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE AND TACTICS
THANKS TO: JINGJING ROMERO, JOSE ENDRIGA, VANGUARD JOHN S. BAROÑA AND CRAVINGS

Ced Carrion on ROTC

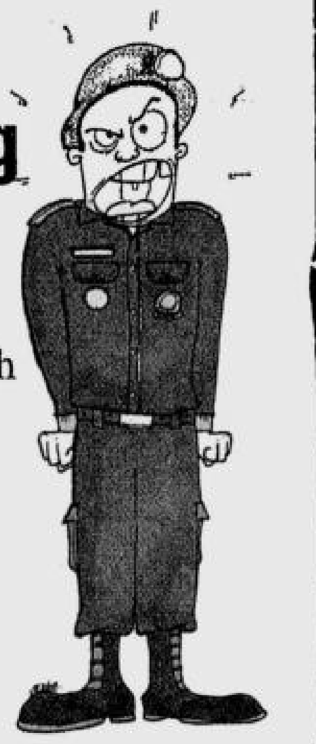
KUDOS to Ced Carrion for being brave and game enough to join us for the workout. This 20-year-old "Tabing Ilog" and "Pangako Sa 'Yo" mainstay is the signature model of Bench and has appeared in a Cali TV commercial. A BA Philosophy student of UP Diliman, Ced was exempted from ROTC because he played volleyball for the university. He still took the course for a while, though, and has a lot to say about it.

"The most common complaint about ROTC is that it's tiring, and you have to wake up early on Sundays just to let people push you around. Those are the bad things. I see the point of the people who want to abolish it. They say we have RO to make sure we have reserve corps [n the event of a] war. But it's a modern world. The war is within the four walls of the Congress and Senate. There are still good things about ROTC. You learn discipline; that's the primary thing."

PP



2bU! training report



'I cannot believe a bunch like this will become our country's last resort in the event of a foreign invasion'

BY MSGT. JAFRUTS

Correspondents' note: MSgt Jafruts is a member of a special armed forces unit, the name of which he refuses to disclose. He's insane.

0400 H, 22 Jul 2001. I woke up at my usual time to jog my daily 25 km and have a generous breakfast of two slices of toast—no butter. I am a weapon. A weapon of death and destruction. Today is the day I am to carve a group of INQUIRER 2bU! correspondents according to my war-loving image. When I make soldiers of these children, my cohorts and I will stand in pride at my achievement.

1200 H, 22 Jul 2001. I am ashamed. Deeply and truly ashamed. In my 50 years as an ROTC cadet officer, I have never commanded a group of people like the 2bU! correspondents. I cannot believe a bunch like this will become our country's last resort in the event of a foreign invasion. When our underfunded and undermanned armed forces are trounced, I shudder to think what would happen when we call upon this group to defend the nation.

Private Pam S. Pastor

The fearless leader of the pack. This may have been your idea, but I am sure you are kicking yourself in the head now, are you not? If you wanted girl training, you should have brought in a female officer to call the shots. Here you brought your untrained self in front of me, and expect me to be happy about it? It is like you tried to enroll in college without going through grade school!

Now you know ROTC is not a game. War is not a game. It is not a game when you are running from the enemy through a minefield, with miscellaneous appendages reaching safe places before the rest of you does. You give your best effort, but all it amounts to is a 4. Good, but not good enough. You cannot destroy your enemy with effort.

Private Tammy G. David

Here is yet another literary genius who dreamed up the plan to undergo ROTC training. I bet you wished you could whip out the liquid eraser on the field, did you not? Why were you the first to shout, "Sir, dying, Sir!" on our short but enlightening road run? Dying? DYING?! Dying is when you are full of holes on the field of honor asking for your mommy! You did not even come close.

You are hereby ordered to repeat training after acquiring a grade of 5.0! Your grade will be changed if you prove beyond reasonable doubt that you can haul your carcass a mile without complaining.

Private Cheryl D. Tiu

What is wrong with mud? It is a perfect camouflage with which to surprise your enemy and turn him into Swiss cheese. Mud is a blessing and you better not forget it! What you got on your shoes is not mud. Mud is what finds its way into places you never knew you had. Mud is the proof that you have fought tooth and nail.

Training was worth a try? But in the words of one of my mentors, "Do, or do not. There is no try." You are lucky to have escaped my wrath. But if I was watching closer, I am sure I would have found something wrong with you. Nevertheless, that is my oversight, and you will walk away with a 3.0.

Private Kellyn O. See

If size were an advantage, you should be parking in handicapped spaces. Why your comrades would coerce you to submit to my kind of training is unthinkable, though I do believe they are now thinking the same for themselves. While you have plenty of potential for pushing pencils, you do seem to have a certain tactical edge in the battlefield. For example, springing a surprise attack from your squadmate's backpack. You have kept up with the group, despite the disadvantage to yourself. Your performance is worthy of a 3.0. Just remember that the 3 is on the left, and the 0 is on the right.

Private Happy G. David

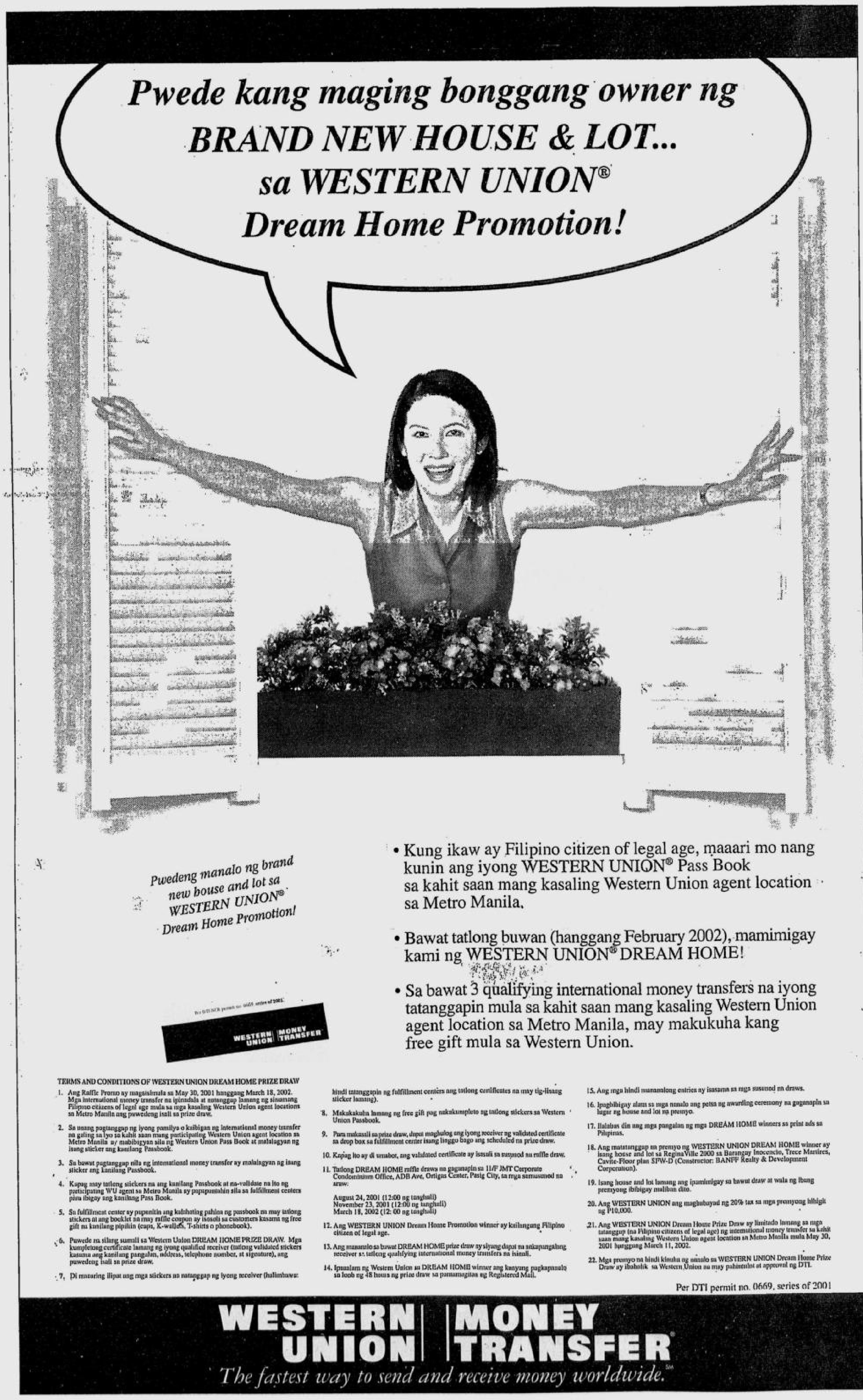
Happy, eh? Well, I sure fixed *that*, did I not? There's very little to laugh about when you have bullets landing inches away from your skull! Fortunately for you, you have proven yourself to be a trainable cadet. By "trainable," I do not mean "good." Not by a long shot. You have turned out to be the most competent among the females in your squad, which is exactly why I am distraught. When I tell you to pocket your smile, do it on the double! Those less deserving than you have passed. This is why you will get the credit you deserve. 3.0.

Private Ced

....if that *is*, in fact, your real name. You are Private David's counterpart—the most competent male in the group. Why did you dare show yourself late? You never make your officer wait! I was about to deliver a punishment you would never forget when your comrades begged for your life.

But you proved that you can follow instructions and helped your squad improve its performance. I commend your competence and tenacity. For this you shall receive a grade of 3.0.

But all in all... why? WHY?! I dare not lead a squad like this into battle. We couldn't win if the enemy were armed with Super Soakers and water balloons. Your spirit disgraces the honorable and prestigious history of courage of the Filipino. And since the law discourages me from eliminating the lot of you, I will return to the south where my services are needed.



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1. Ang Raffle Promo ay magsisimula sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
2. Sa unang pagtanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
3. Sa bawat pagtanggap nila ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
4. Kapag may tatlong stickers na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating WU agent sa Metro Manila ay papapuntahin sila sa fulfillment centers para ibigay ang kanilang Pass Book.
5. Sa fulfillment center ay pupunitin ang kalahating pahina ng passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffle coupon ay isosoli sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, K-wallets, T-shirts o phonebook).
6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
7. Di maaaring ilipat ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (halimbawa: hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-iisang sticker lamang).
8. Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakumpleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
9. Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maghulog ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
10. Kapag ito ay di umabot, ang validated certificate ay isasali sa susunod na raffle draw.
11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:
    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12: 00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SFW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
20. Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
21. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

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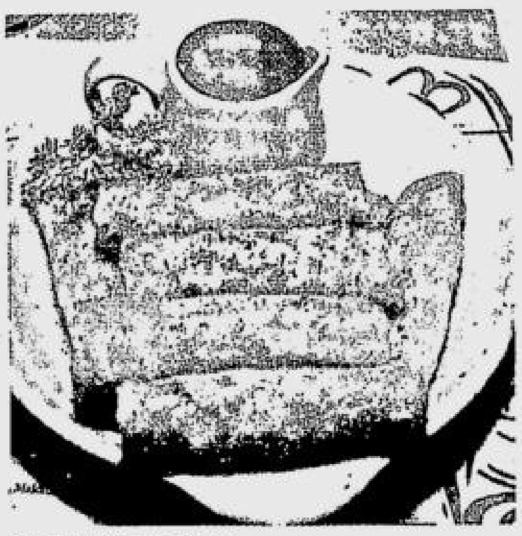
Windows—no, not the one on your PC

LUMPIA Remedios, P85

LOLA'S Chicken Bits, P135


TINAPA Sticks, P115

BY PAM PASTOR
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

BILL Gates has changed the meaning of "Windows" for most people. Now, Windows has taken another connotation for us. Food. Mouthwatering, lip-licking, eye-closing good food.

Who would have ever thought you'd find a slice of heaven sandwiched between a billiards hall and a bowling alley? Say no to your usual greasy pizza and your mayo-loaded subs. Windows has revolutionized gaming food.

Right between Power Plant's famous bowling alley and its area for billiard players is a haven for food lovers.

The spacious, well-lit area is a comfort zone for parents who are waiting for their kids to finish games and for people who are actually there for an adventure for their palate.

And what an adventure it is. Windows serves a fusion of Asian, Italian and Spanish food. They have old favorites like *gambas*, *salpicao*, fried chicken, garlic mushrooms, pork dumplings, *molo* soup, *arroz caldo*, lasagna, three kinds of *pancit*, pesto, chicken à la king and German franks. But they also serve goodies with new twists.

2bU! feasted on Calamares Fritos (P135), which was very tender, and is served with either tartar or chili sauce. They had ran out of what most of us really wanted to order, Adobo Flakes (pork *adobo* fried to a crisp, served with *adobo*-flavored rice—P135). We settled for other dishes and we were not disappointed.

Quark's Hainanese Chicken Rice (a Singapore classic of lightly cooked chicken—P165) was good, according to him. Jules enjoyed her Beef Tapa Flakes (served with garlic rice and an egg—P145). My Lola's Chicken Bits (delicately minced and fried to a crisp, served with garlic rice and an egg—P135) was flavorful and filling. The Lomi (Chinese fat noodle soup) tasted almost homemade. We loved the squid ball and *quekiam* bits..

We could not decide on our favorite dish. It was a toss-up between the Tinapa Sticks (smoked fish, salted eggs rolled in *lumpia* wrapper—P115) that Jason, Happy, Jules and Quark loved, and the Windows Pork Sisig (P130). The *sisig* for me is the tops. Windows transformed this *pulutan* staple into a gourmet dish. It's not oily, it's crisp and crunchy. And serving it with soft tortilla is a brilliant idea. The softness of the dough is perfect when combined with the crunchy pork bits. I absolutely loved it. All right, I confess—I'm still dreaming about it.

Tempting and filling

It was too bad that we were too full to even think about dessert. Windows has Sans Rival (P45), Apple Crumble à la Mode (P60), Coffee Jelly (P65), Coffee Cream Cake (P50), Prune Walnut Cake (P55), Swiss Chocolate Cake (P50), Blueberry Cheesecake (P60), Coco Gulaman (P65), Mais Con Hielo (P55), Halo-Halo (P65) and Guinumis (P55).

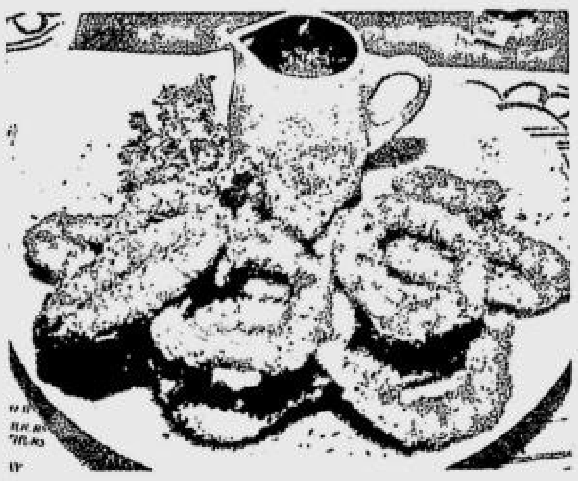
Other Windows goodies that we didn't have room for but sounded tempting are the Tofu Tempura (soft tofu with light soy dressing—P115), Squid Sisig (P130), Kani Cheese Sticks with wasabi mayonnaise (P125), Soft Shell Crab Croissant (delectable crab with spicy dressing in a soft flaky bun—P110), Adobo Melt on Pandesal (traditional pork *adobo* with Swiss cheese—P95), Bagnet (Ilocano lechon *kawali* with *bagoong balayan* and vinegar sauce) and Norwegian Salmon Fish Head (P235), Grilled Fillet of Gindara (P195) and the specialty, Soft Shell Crabs (three creamy crabs served with steamed rice and chili sauce—P210).

I'm definitely going back, if only for the *sisig*. And next time, I swear, I'm leaving room for dessert.

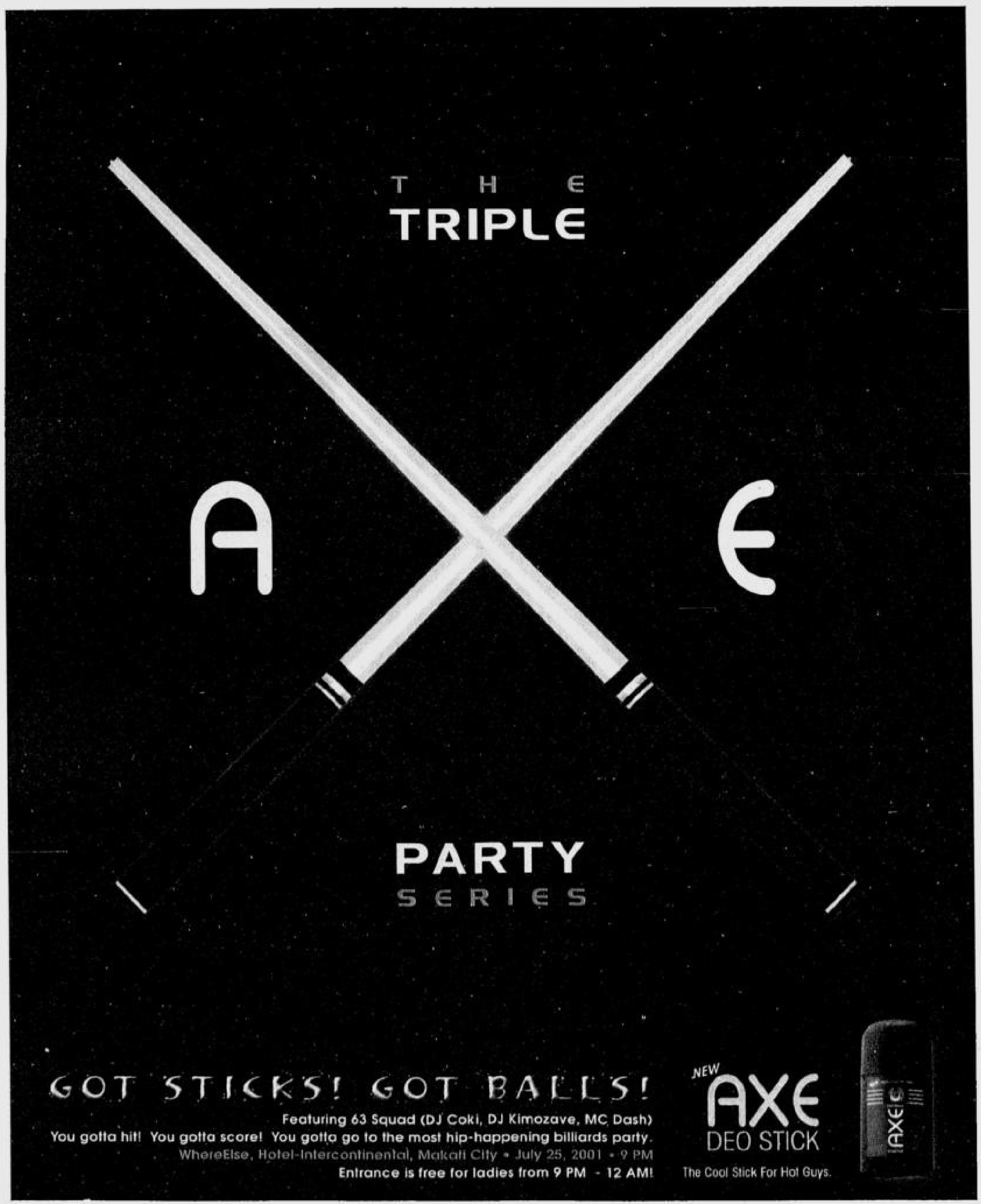
E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com

WINDOWS Pork Sisig, P130

HAINANESE Chicken Rice, P165


CALAMARES Fritos, P135

LOMI, P95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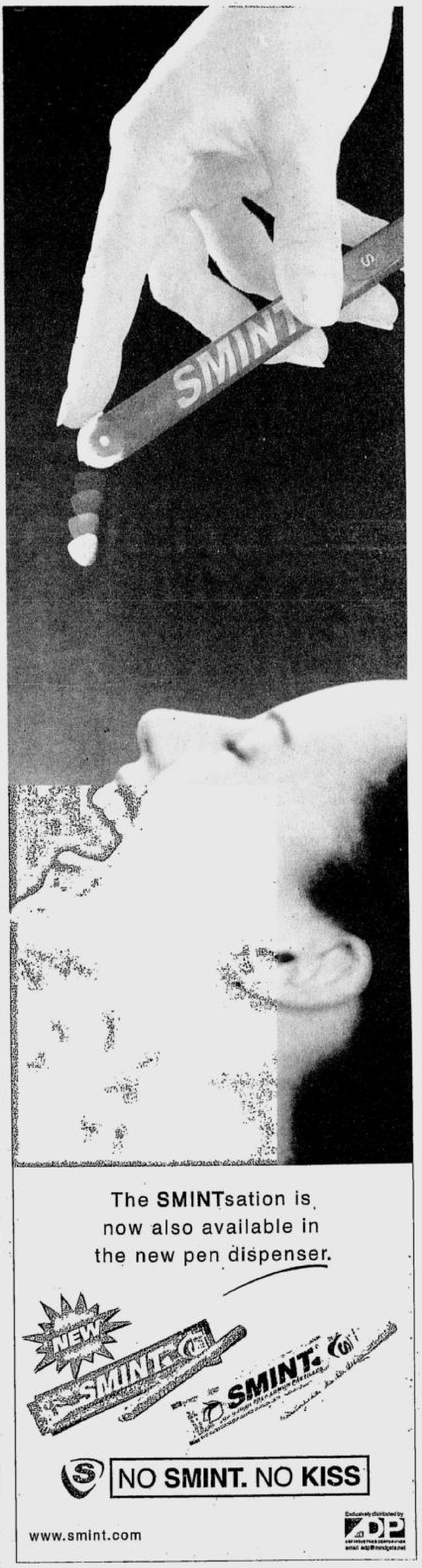
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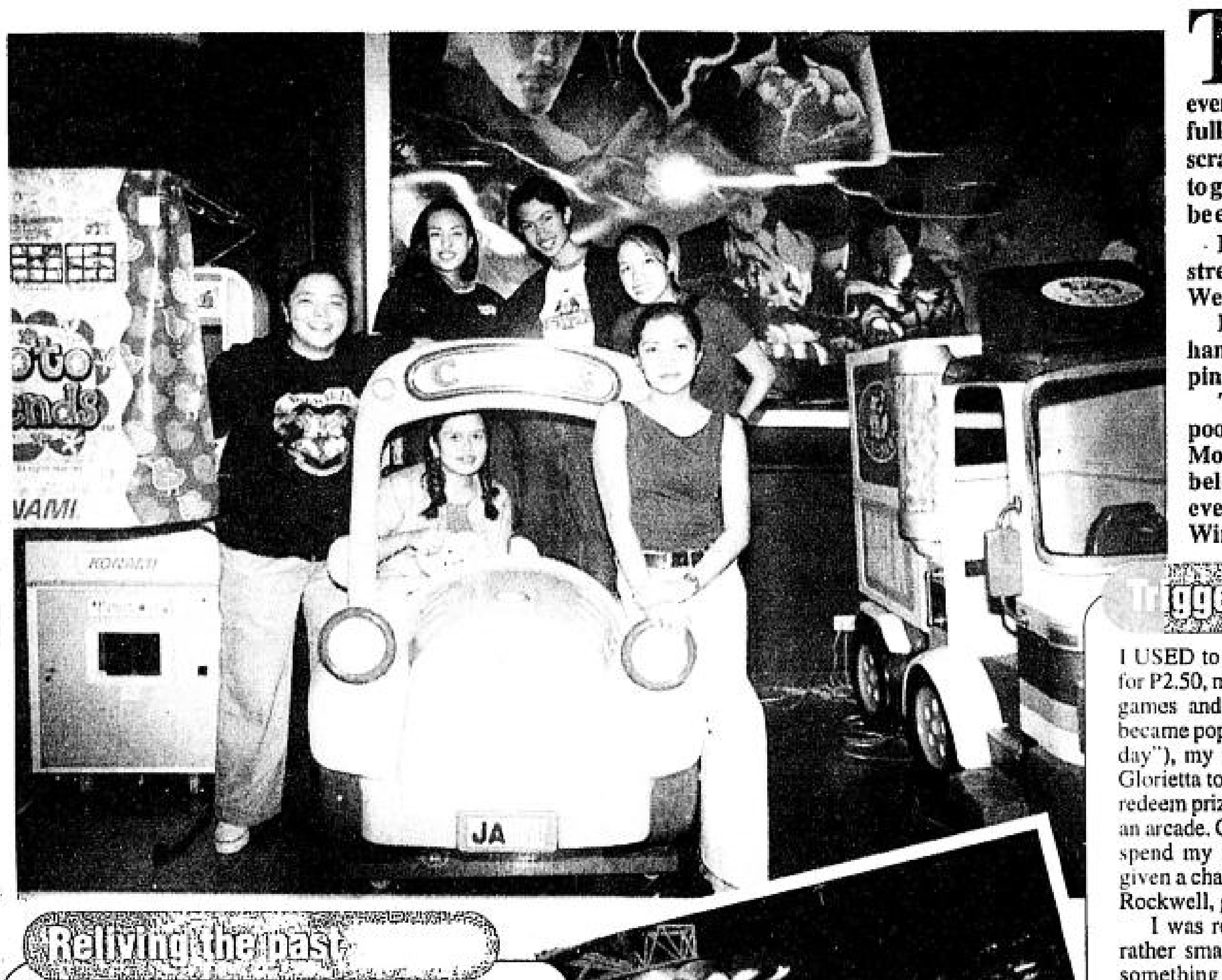
WACKY D
Power Station

A NIGHT AT THE ARCADE

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Zing, zap and all that zazz

Your 2bU! 'barkada' spent an evening at Rockwell's Power Station and had a blast trying to beat each other at games



THE 2bU! correspondents headed for Power Plant one Thursday as soon as they got off school or work for an evening that promised to be full of fun. With fully loaded Q Power Station cards, we scrambled from one game to another, eager to get the most number of tickets that could be exchanged for prizes.

It was a welcome break from all the stress and pressures of work and school. We felt like little kids again.

Hours later, tired and flushed, our hands, pockets and bags were full of the pink tickets.

Tammy was the grand winner. We all pooled what we collected and got a Mickey Mouse wall clock for Mang Betoy, our beloved photographer. We ended the evening with a scrumptious dinner at Windows, also in the Power Plant mall.

Reliving the past

I'M a video game junkie but it's been ages since I entered an arcade. While I do not mind the noise, I don't feel comfortable when I get an audience when I play a video game. I don't like standing in line to get tokens (P4 a piece before) so I saved up to buy machines so I could play at home or bought tons of batteries for my Gameboy, playing till my eyes were red and my thumbs were numb.

Last Thursday, I had the chance with the rest of the 2bU! gang to test some of the games at the Power Station. I was excited by the new games (some renamed or reformatted) and the new paying system (tokens are out, cards are in). I played mainly the ball games to get many tickets since there was a Harry Potter figurine I was eyeing. My top three games?

● **Ice Ball** (also known as the ski ball)

The same old ski ball. I used to spend hours (and tokens) playing ski ball in Whimsy Land and I relived those moments in Power Station. The play area was a lot smaller and the goal was covered with some kind of a screen (I used to make *daya* by climbing up and putting the balls in 10,000). A must-play! Plus lots of tickets if you get an average to high score.

● **Superball Gorilla**

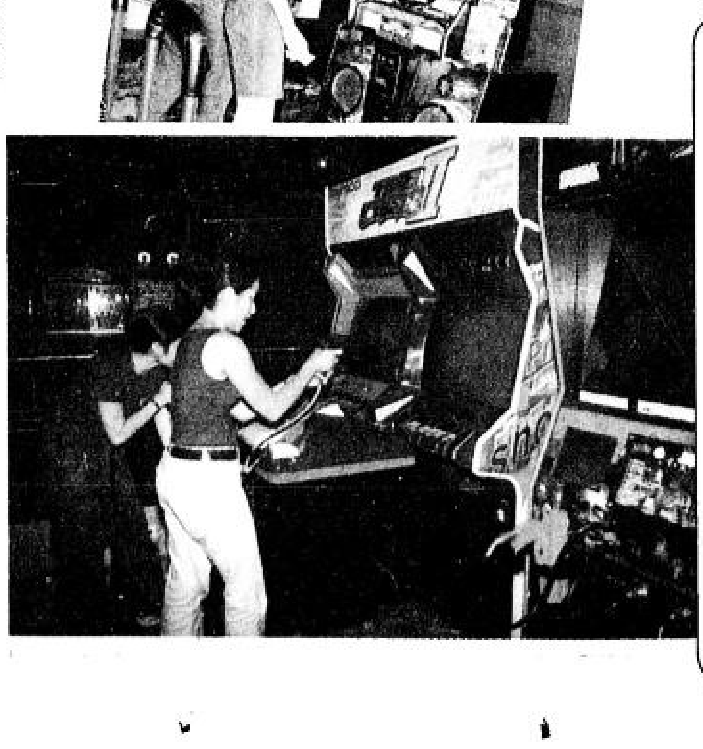
The object of the game is to hit the Gorilla's teeth with the balls until they all fall off. You will get a high score and lots of tickets if you have longs arms and a good aim. Ha-ha-ha!

● **Smack an Alien**

This is similar to Whack-a-Mole and that machine with alligators coming out and making this annoying "Indeh!" sound when you hit them. This time an astronaut is lying down, and green, orange and red aliens come out of his belly. The challenge here is you can't hit the red ones. The game is quite confusing but if you practice (that uses up a lot of your credits but you get a couple of tickets in return), you can get it right although you still will not be able to save the astronaut.

Warning: Please warm up. Frustration and hitting the aliens hard will result in severe shoulder and back pains. Play the Mini Dunk basketball game first to warm up.

Tammy David



Trigger-happy

I USED to be addicted to arcades. Buying a token for P2.50, my brother and I would play Street Fighter games and whatever else was new. Then tickets became popular. Every Thursday (that was my "date day"), my mom and her friends would take me to Glorietta to play for more tickets that can be used to redeem prizes. It has been a long time since I went to an arcade. Crowds bother me and I would now rather spend my money on a new CD. But when I was given a charged Power Station card for the arcade in Rockwell, geez, how could I say no?

I was reluctant to play at first. The place was rather small, and I was expecting new games or something *different* although they did have air hockey. But after beating my friend Quark three consecutive times at three different games (air hockey, Street Fighter and a racing game), things started to perk up.

Tammy pointed out the prizes we could redeem. My jaw literally dropped when I saw the Harry Potter goodies—figurines, the Quidditch card game, activity books and some (gasp) Hogwarts buttons. That was all it took for me to blow out my power card. Here's a tip: if you want lots of tickets, don't feel bad that you are not the best in basketball. Pam was a natural at the basketball shooting thingy, but I found out that the ski ball game was a surefire way to earn tickets. Score a thousand (which is super easy) and you get tickets. Warning: It can be addicting.

Tammy discovered what would be a mineshaft after my right arm gave out from bowling. She showed me how a machine (where you chuck balls into a barrel that had an annoying Mexican mouse popping in and out) spewed out tickets even before you start to play. Wow, eight tickets for free! Can't say no to that.

Playing non-ticket games made me think twice. I thought I was better off playing cheesy games if I could score Harry Potter goodies, but with Quark finding the good shooting games and Pam telling us to check out some trivia game, I figured Harry Potter could wait. I found out arcades aren't for brainless losers. There was this machine where you have a choice from word games to trivia puzzles, and it seriously knocked my brain out (think "Jeopardy" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire").

Of course, a trip to the arcade isn't complete without shooting games. They had Time Crisis II, which has a two-player feature. I was obsessed with laser tag when I was a kid and I remember that, at one point, Time Crisis was the hottest game. I decided to give Time Crisis II a try (back in Laser Quest only the "older" kids played the earlier version). Jules and I were immediately hooked. We shrieked when our cards ran out. Jules would scream every now and then for her power card to speed up loading.

My ticket count at the end of the day? 172. A hundred more and I could have gotten my Harry Potter buttons.

So, okay, maybe I didn't get past the first stage of Time Crisis, and I didn't bring home any Harry Potter goodies. But it was good to relive the days when I would wait forever for my mom to get dressed just so she could take me to the amusement park.

And I vow to win those Harry Potter buttons soon.

Maui V. Reyes

The appeal remains

I HAVEN'T outgrown arcades yet. As a high school freshman whose parents had just split up, my dad's way of making up for everything was to bring my brother and me to Robinsons Galleria for shopping, food and an afternoon at the arcade. He outgrew this eventually but it was fun while it lasted. I collected tons of huge stuffed toys that crowded my bedroom as a result of those outings.

With the advent of better and more high-tech arcades, I remained button-happy. Although my enthusiasm had lessened, which I wanted to believe was because I was already an adult, arcades remained appealing.

Playing games is a good way to pass the time as you wait for the next screening of a film. The arcade is also great for testing your date's ego. I so admire the man who can easily accept the fact that I can beat him at racing, air hockey and basketball with one hand tied behind my back. (One time, I beat a whole line of guys at a basketball game. Jason asked, "*Lalaki ka ba?*") I just love, love, love the Percussion Freaks game. Not having been able to beat real drums in ages, this game offers release for me—to the irritation of my best friend Jason who is sick of hearing me play the same songs again and again.

That evening we spent in Power Plant was a welcome break for me. I was trying to get over the Spanish test I failed miserably. But I couldn't immediately loosen up. I was running all over the place like a sick mother hen, distributing cards and checking if everything was okay. I realized, however, the whole Power Station experience would be lost on me unless I started to get into the arcade groove.

So I shaped up and I started to enjoy. I even forgot that we were playing for tickets. I was too busy beating my own basketball record. I tossed the balls into the hoop till my arms became numb. Then I took a breather and played the trivia game. I played ski ball, Spin to Win and Humpty Dumpty. Not exactly a fan of computer games (I'm perfectly happy with Tetris and Mario, thank you), I settled for the racing and physical games. Then I went back to basketball.

It all felt good. It was great to be a kid again. Just one question though. When will they have Percussion Freaks?

Pam Pastor

QUANTUM 2844785
QUANTUM 2844784
QUANTUM 2844783
QUANTUM 2844782
41

Klutz goes to the arcade

I WASN'T exactly jumping for joy when Pam said we were going to check out Q-Station in Rockwell. As far as I'm concerned, the arcade is where I leave my brothers or my boyfriend whenever I want some peace and quiet (meaning whine-free, unlimited time) during shopping expeditions. It's not like I never tried to play in the arcades. It's just that the few times I did try air hockey or Dance Revolution or Percussion Freaks, I drew ugly stares from all the other people present, especially arcade freaks, who seemed to think I was desecrating holy ground by being a virtual klutz and having a voice as shrill as a banshee's. I am not exactly coordinated—geez, I cannot even manage to reach 400 points in the Snakes game on my cell phone! So I am not an inspiring sight in the arcade.

I was prepared to "share" my card (credits) with the rest.

As soon as we got to Q-Station, I headed for the trivia game. I discovered this game in Q-Station some time ago and I truly enjoyed it. I was grinning from ear to ear when I discovered that I still had the highest score in entertainment trivia. One might think that it was such an easy game (the only thing one had to do is press the screen—no stomping on the boards, no maneuvering, etc.). But one has to be really good at making an educated guess. Yes, guessing since the show-biz trivia they ask cover the present to the early 20th century. I was prepared to beat my own record but sadly, the machine kept stalling. After several attempts, I gave up. (I hope Q-Station fixes those machines because I truly, truly love the game.)

I was ready to give my credits to Pam when it dawned on me that maybe I should try the other games that I have never played. As I walked around, I saw the sign, "No mercy for anyone who gets in the way!" That's my mantra, I thought to myself! My legs led me to Sega's Motor Raid. I have never tried any of these games where you ride on a bike/motorcycle and go on a virtual race. Off I went and it was a blast!

Not only do you race with others but you can hit any one who gets in your way with a sword or some sharp object attached to the spokes of the motorbike. If you hit anyone, your score goes up and your speed increases. This game proved to be great for relieving stress and exactly what someone like me, who needed a break, wanted. It was such a thrill to compete with the other virtual bikers. After three games I was third, over all. Not bad for a first-timer although it was probably more beginner's luck. If it weren't for my painful hips, I would have finished off my Q-Station card on that game.

Snap Shot, which I saw Pam try, was another great game. Although simple, it sharpened one's memory. As I was known as a basketball freak, Tammy told me to try Mini Dunxx. Of course, I did well! The ring was just as high as my waist for crying out loud! Next stop for me was Humpty Dumpty where I let go of some of my pent-up energy by toppling the boards with the balls.

I've long wanted to try Time Crisis but never got around to it. Finally, I had the chance at Q-Station. Let's just put it this way—I finished off my card on that game. My boyfriend and Maui teased me because I would literally duck every time I had to reload when all I had to do was step on the break. I told you, I could be an embarrassment in the arcade. I'm sure I looked like an idiot especially to the guys who were waiting to play Time Crisis. After a while, I got the hang of it and did not want to leave anymore.

It was such a bummer when Pam told us that we had to go and have dinner just when I was on my way to helping law enforcers fight terrorists. I was going to save the world, you know!

Jules Alcantara

Recapturing lost childhood

I'VE never really been a fan of arcades, even as a child. My parents were big supporters of the school of thought that believed computer games were a schoolboy's ultimate nemesis. So I grew up without getting hooked on them, except for that time when I discovered our neighbor's family computer and Gameboy. In high school, I never spent time in the mall arcades. Otherwise, I would have to shell out my money to play the games they offered. My greatest entertainment luxury has always been the movies.

So when we went to the Power Station at the Power Plant Mall in Makati, I was a bit happy because I had the opportunity to experience that lost part of my childhood.

First stop was a "manual" racing game, where five alien bicycle racers were encased on a window controlled by their players. Outside this window were stationary balls, which the players would roll to make the aliens go forward, backward, left or right. Happy, Jules, Tammy, Maui and I rolled our balls to death just to beat each other out. However, it was Tammy, the resident Grand Prix fan, who emerged winner.

Next was air hockey, a table game where one has to slide the small disk inside the opponent's slot. Happy and I exchanged killer stares as we slugged it out on the table. I immediately dropped my bag so I could move better for it would be humiliating to lose in front of the crowd watching the game. A scorer is placed at the top of the table so players can keep track of their standing. I think I won that game (if not, sorry, Happy… He he he).

Since I love racing games, Happy and I pulled Pam away from her basketball game and went to the racing game located near the entrance. This one is more exciting since players can link up and race with one another. There are four courses. Since we were beginners, we chose the beginner's and normal courses. One can also select the type that s/he wants. The controls include the steering wheel, brakes, accelerator and the stick shift. Again, a crowd formed perhaps fascinated with the way we morphed our faces, depending on how hard we tried to get ahead of the pack of racers.

Afterward, I checked out the other games and one caught my attention: the tennis game! Last week, I wrote about how addicted I've been to the online version, so having one on the big screen really captured me. This one had professional players whom you could "play." The likes of Tim Henman, Gustavo Kuerten and Mark Philippoussis are ready to be selected. The levels are assigned to a particular tournament, for example, the Australian Open. As you reach the higher levels, the computer player becomes trickier so it takes dexterous hands to reach the Wimbledon.

Next was the Dance Revolution. I tried this game a few times, and I never could finish a song. I do know how to dance, but I just couldn't coordinate my feet with the arrows. But this time, with the help of my dancing buddy, Happy, I was able to finish all four songs! Still, I had to hide my face after I stepped down the machine because for sure, I looked epileptic while I was dancing.

Later on, I learned that we'd be counting our tickets to determine who'd be the Power Station champ. Some games dispense tickets according to how well you played. However, the games I played didn't. So I went over to the ball games that provided the likes of Tammy and Maui tickets. (Note: These tickets can be later exchanged for some items displayed at the counter). But then again, I didn't have that much luck *(See tabulation)*. I was never trained for the arcade. And I thank my mom for that.

Jason Doplito

The Scoreboard

Tammy	–	200
Maui	–	176
Happy	–	129
Pam	–	123
Jason	–	94
Jules	–	69

Steering clear of the unfamiliar

I STAYED away from machines that I wasn't familiar with because I didn't want to waste my precious credit. I saw Pop-a-ball, a game I remembered playing a few years back. I put in my coin and "popped" the balls. Like Tic Tac Toe, you're supposed to put the balls in the right positions to win tickets. Before I knew it the game was finished; I didn't get a single tickets, not even for consolation.

As in other arcades, they didn't have too many prizes for people with just a few tickets.

Older people, even *lolos* and *lolas*, need not be left out! The place has trivia games and machines that include mah-jong and a wide variety of popular games like "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and "Wheel of Fortune."

My favorite games were Fighting Mania—which is perfect for releasing all those pent-up feelings that trouble you—Dance Revolution and Namco Racing.

The last one is your typical race car game. A quick-cam takes the players' images before the race starts and places them on top of their respective racing cars for identification. I ended up with a blurred picture because there was something wrong with my machine's camera. Jason, my racing buddy, was so excited at seeing himself onscreen that he was caught with his hands on his glowing face. It was funny. But when the race started and Jason's yellow car moved ahead, his face seemed to be smirking and suddenly it wasn't so funny anymore.

Happy David

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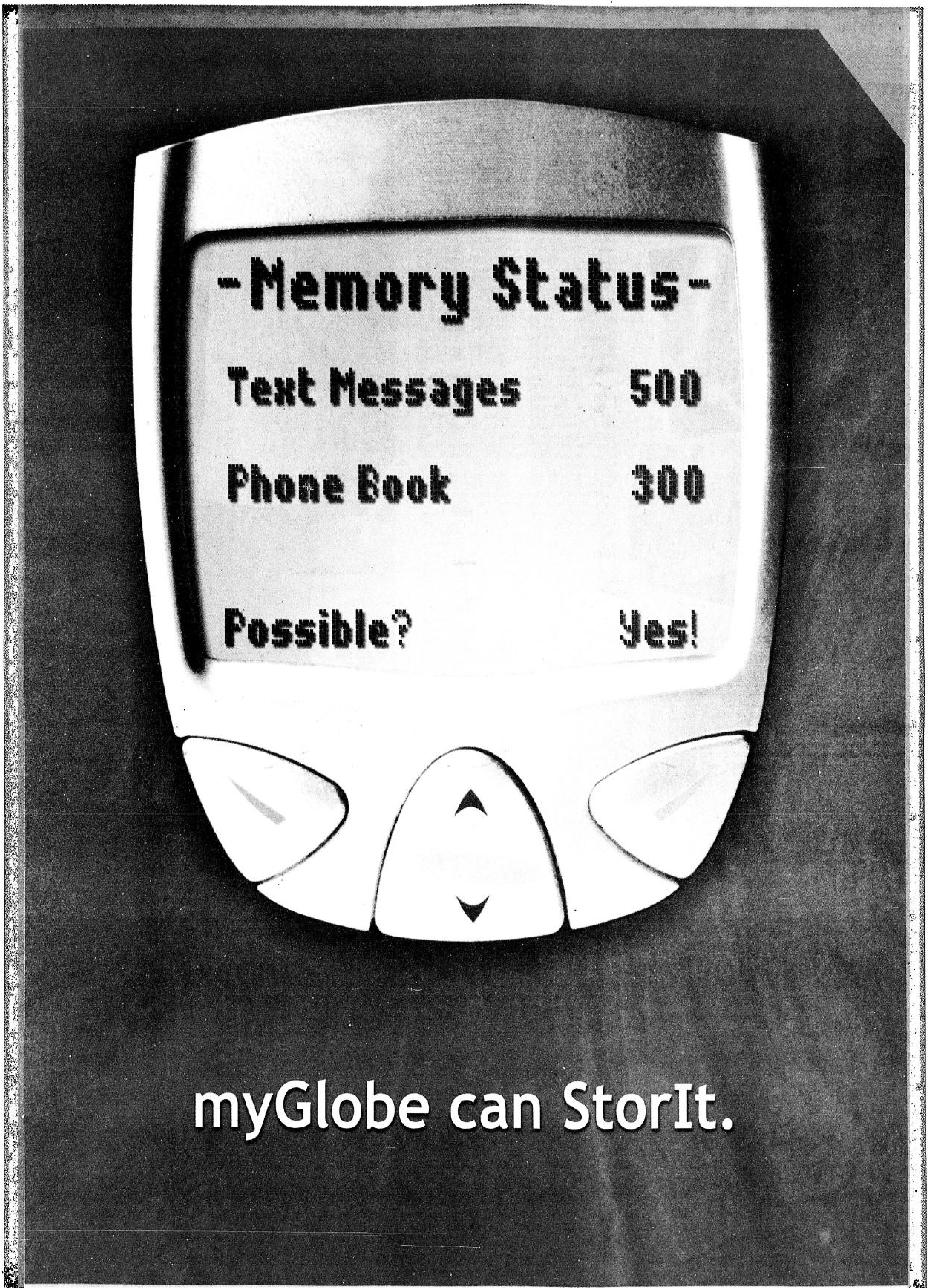
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Meet the real KC Concepcion

TOMORROW the biggest campaign of Ben Chan's alternative label for the young and individualistic, Human, will be launched. And at the heart of the blitz is its newest image model, KC Concepcion. Yes, she's Sharon Cuneta's daughter and you know everything about her. Well, maybe not everything.

For instance, at school, KC is an achiever: She's in the honor roll, she's with the choir, she's secretary of the class and the junior council, and she's the PRO of the environmental club.

KC is a loving sister, good friend, adventurous clotheshorse, soccer player, swimmer and, most of all, a teenager with depth.

There are other things people don't know about the 16-year-old celebrity. In this exclusive interview with 2bU!, the prettiest face to hit media of late talks about lip balm, her ideal boyfriend, her idea of fun and the real KC Concepcion.

People think you're a sweet little girl. Are you, really?

No, I'm faking it. (Laughter) Just kidding. I think people tend to highlight a certain side of someone. Like me, some people say I'm sweet. I'm human—and that's not a pun or promo or anything—and there are different sides to everyone. When they see me angry, they'll say, "Why is she like that? She's not supposed to be like that. She's supposed to be this sweet little girl." How would you feel if you were under a magnifying glass? I have different sides, like everyone else.

What irritates you?

One of the things that really irritate me is that people can't understand I'm normal. They already have different perceptions of me. It affects me more now when people try to pry constantly. I'm an adolescent and I'm learning different things. I stumble along the way. I'm just going through a lot.

Your *yaya* says you look most beautiful when you're angry. What are you like when you're angry? Do you throw things?

I don't throw things. Sometimes I really keep it all inside. Sometimes you'll see I'm less perky or I won't be perky at all. I'll just stay in my own little corner and I'll be moody. I keep it all inside. When I do let it

MEET/ p.D3

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Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest downloads for Smart Gold, Smart Buddy, and Talk n' Text subscribers. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

top ten ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	ALL THE SMALL THINGS	BLINK 182	TONE ALLTHE
2	BREATHE	PRODIGY	TONE BREATHE
3	LULLABY	NURSERY RHYME	TONE LULLABY2
4	UPTOWN GIRL	BILLY JOEL / WESTLIFE	TONE UPTOWN
5	I LOVE ROCK 'N ROLL	JOAN JETT	TONE ILOVEROC
6	BRAND NEW DAY	STING	TONE BRANDNEW
7	OTHER SIDE	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	TONE QOERSYD
8	TURNING JAPANESE	VAPORS	TONE JAPANIS
9	BURN	KULAY	TONE BURN
10	TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR	NURSERY RHYME	TONE TWINKLE

new ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	QUEEN	TONE BOHEMIAN
2	GREATEST LOVE OF ALL /CLUB-MIX	WHITNEY HOUSTON	TONE GREATEST
3	HOT IN THE CITY	BILLY IDOL	TONE HOTCITY
4	YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE	HOLLAND, DOZIER, HOLLAND	TONE YOUCANTH
5	A-TEAM THEME	POST, CARPENTER	TONE ATEAM
6	BIG BIG WORLD	EMILIA, YOGI	TONE BIGBIGWO
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS THEME	ELLIOT, FERGUSON, GOLD	TONE CHARLIES
8	DYNASTY THEME	BILL CONTI	TONE DYNASTY
9	THE ONLY WAY IS UP	YAZZ	TONE WAYISUP
10	WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE	BILLY JOEL	TONE WEDIDNTSTRT

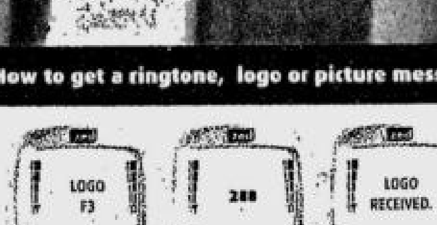
top ten logos
new logos

BABE
LOGO BABE
LOGO BEARPEEK1
CAUTION
LOGO CAUTION
LOGO DRINK2
HONEY!
LOGO HONEY
LOGO POPPER1
LOGO PUPPY2
LOGO PUTT1
LOGO SUNSMILE1
This side up.
LOGO THISSIDEUP
LOGO CANDIES1
LOGO EGYPT2
LOGO F3
LOGO KEYLOCK1
LOGO LAKESAIL1
NO STRESS!
LOGO NOSTRESS1
LOGO PELICANLUV1
LOGO SHIPINSIDE1
LOGO SNACKTIME1
LOGO SQUAREKNOT1

newest picture messages

PIC AMORE1
PIC PIRANHA1
PIC BOTTLES1
PIC REFRESH1
1 2 Dinner for two
PIC FORTWO1
PIC SLACK1
PIC HEALED1
SNOWBOARDING RULES!
PIC SNOWBOARD1
PIC KISSY1
sori.
PIC SORI1
PIC MOOSE1
PIC TOAST1

How to get a ringtone, logo or picture message: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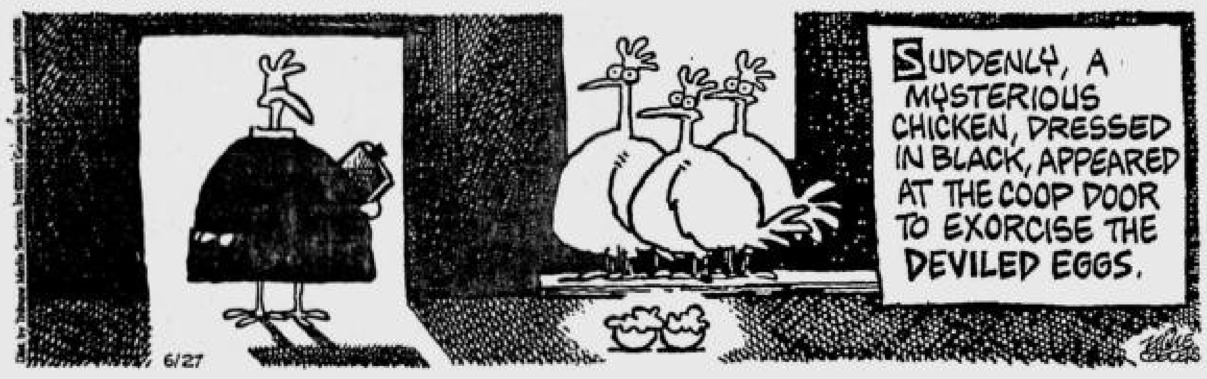
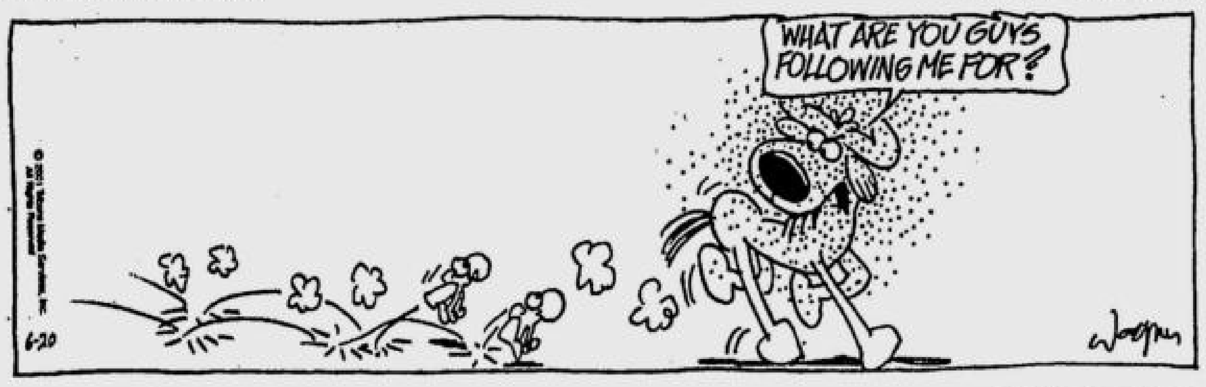
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SUDDENLY, A MYSTERIOUS CHICKEN, DRESSED IN BLACK, APPEARED AT THE COOP DOOR TO EXORCISE THE DEVILED EGGS.
6/27

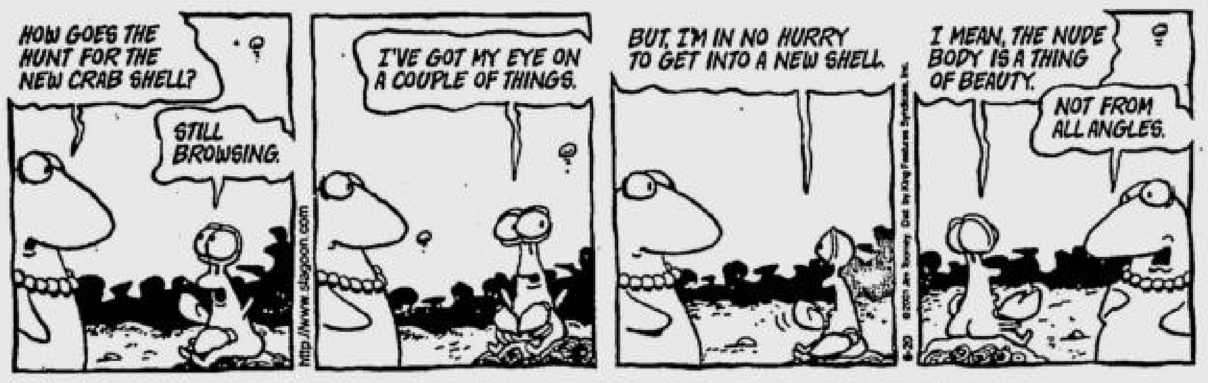
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT ARE YOU GUYS FOLLOWING ME FOR?
6-20
Wagner

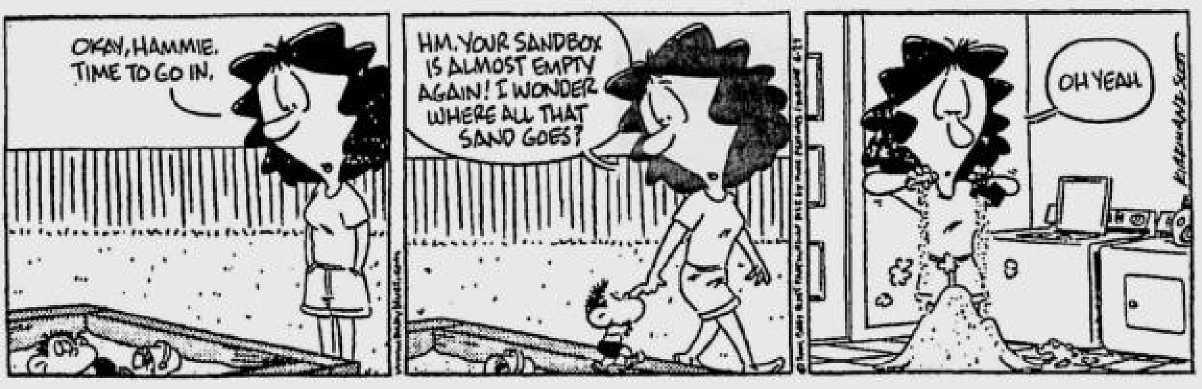
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW GOES THE HUNT FOR THE NEW CRAB SHELL?
STILL BROWSING.
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON A COUPLE OF THINGS.
BUT, I'M IN NO HURRY TO GET INTO A NEW SHELL.
I MEAN, THE NUDE BODY IS A THING OF BEAUTY.
NOT FROM ALL ANGLES.
http://www.slagoon.com
6-20

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, HAMMIE. TIME TO GO IN.
HM. YOUR SANDBOX IS ALMOST EMPTY AGAIN! I WONDER WHERE ALL THAT SAND GOES?
OH YEAH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Iman, Estelle Getty, Walter Payton, Matt LeBlanc, Illeana Douglas, Brad Renfro

Happy Birthday: You can do it if you set your mind to it. You're so entertaining that others will listen, support and finance your dreams. Lay your cards on the table and watch while everyone hurries to encourage your pursuits. Your numbers: 15, 24, 33, 37, 40, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Catch up on work that was put on the back burner. Travel and correspondence appear to be unsettled due to delays. You might want to be alone and sort out your private thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Others may well recognize your creative talent today. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. You have the ability to capture the interest of others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay calm and everything will settle down. Those you live with may be hard to handle. Do your share of the work and then stay active outside the house.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make your point heard if you aren't too shy to express your opinions. Others will admire your splendid solutions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a look at your personal situation and future intentions. Update papers and make positive changes. Someone may be upset with your course of action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Those you live with will be ready to toss you out if you don't stop playing mind games. Secret affairs or hidden matters may be confusing and preoccupying you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Re-evaluate your motives. Think twice about how you are handling loved ones. Take time to look over your personal papers and make changes in your domestic life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communicate with both business and emotional partners. Make sure that they understand your intentions. You can easily acquire additional knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be aggressive at work if you wish to move up the ladder. You can make financial gains if you play your cards right. Don't neglect domestic duties or your mate will be upset.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Travel for pleasure will be conducive to new love connections. Sudden changes in relationships and at home will cause disruptions and outbursts of temper.

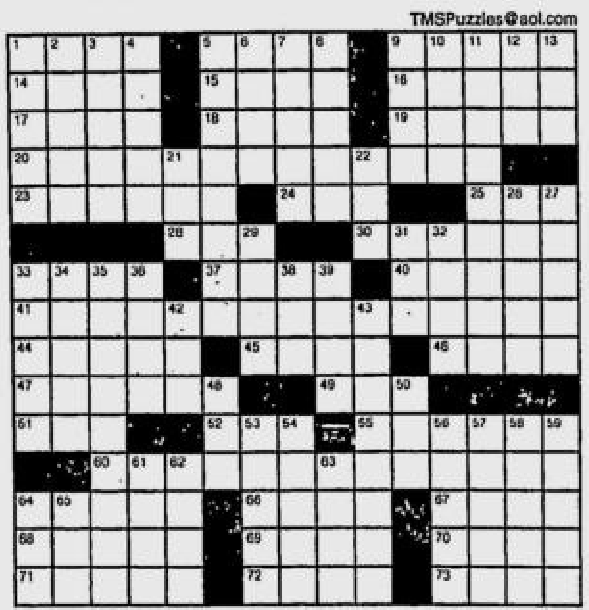
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotional well-being will fluctuate. Don't let those close to you get under your skin. An inability to complete your work will result if you let your emotions interfere.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can ferret out secret information if you listen to others. Your ability to work with detail will aid in achieving your goals.

Birthday Baby: You are a whiz kid—bright, eager to please and constantly wanting to know why. You have an uncanny memory and are excellent at handling those around you. You are caring, charismatic and slightly cautious.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

6/8/01

ACROSS

1 Turner of "Madame X"
5 I toppers
9 Painter of ballerinas
14 First person?
15 Daredevil Knievel
16 "Aida" or "Tosca"
17 City near Phoenix
18 Brummell or Bridges
19 God
20 Uplifting wear?
23 Oater bar
24 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
25 Hog haunch
28 Shrill bark
30 Created anew
33 Oxidation
37 Teheran's place
40 Libreville's country
41 Uplifting comment?
44 Oodles
45 Lock maker
46 Deli breads
47 Dawn-'til-dusk
49 "Over There" cont.
51 Like a little Scot
52 Clairvoyant's letters
55 Throws
60 Uplifting vehicle?
64 Giraffe relative
66 Quarter
67 Ethereal
68 Rhodes of scholarship
69 Vex
70 Playwright Simon
71 Youngsters
72 Brings to a close
73 Elder or alder

DOWN

1 Lanterns
2 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
3 Twangy
4 Socialist Italian P.M. (1992-93)
5 Suave and urbane
6 Above
7 Sides
8 Watery ice
9 Extinct bird
10 Fencer's weapon
11 Jerry Lewis comedy
12 Knack
13 For example
21 Eddie of vaudeville
22 His companion?
26 Worship
27 Fixes
29 Talk to God
31 Coop item
32 Bryn ___
33 Shorten a plank
34 I give up!
35 Reduce, as staff
36 "Sweeney ___"
38 ___ Khan IV
39 Sudan river
42 "Born in the ___"
43 Unengaged positions
48 Nod of the head
50 Kanga's kid
53 Fix one's gaze
54 Eva or Juan
56 Meager
57 Killy or Tomba
58 Chilling
59 Technique
61 Kid from Mayberry
62 Lubricates
63 Actress Beryl
64 Fall mo.
65 Code base

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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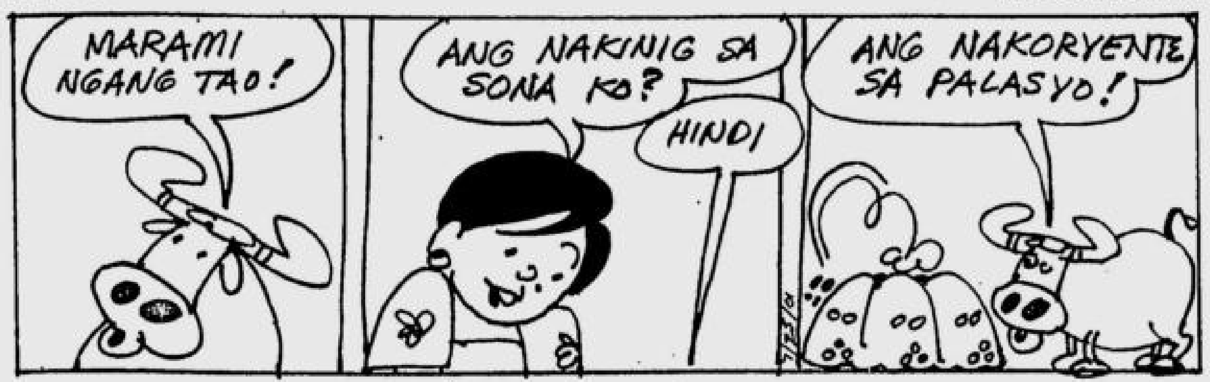
6/8/01

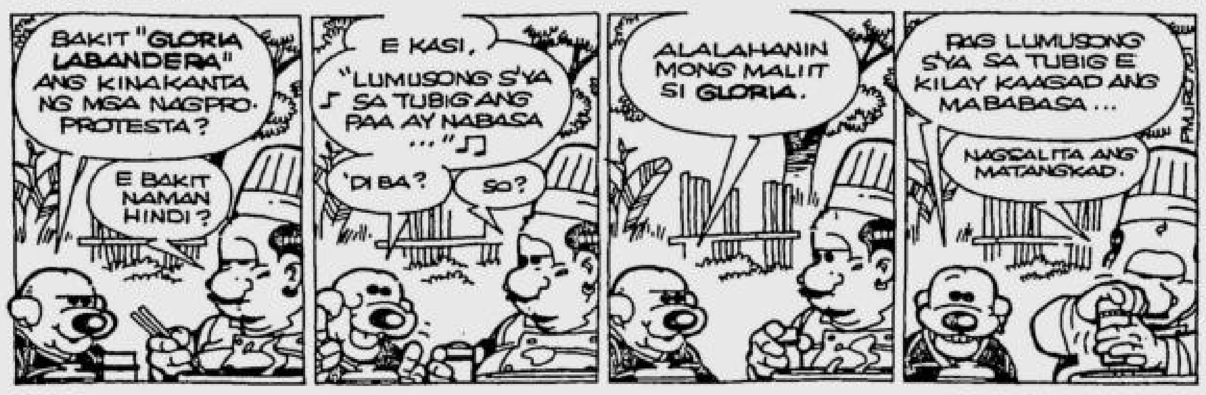
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMI NGANG TAO!
ANG NAKINIG SA SONA KO?
HINDI
ANG NAKORYENTE SA PALASYO!

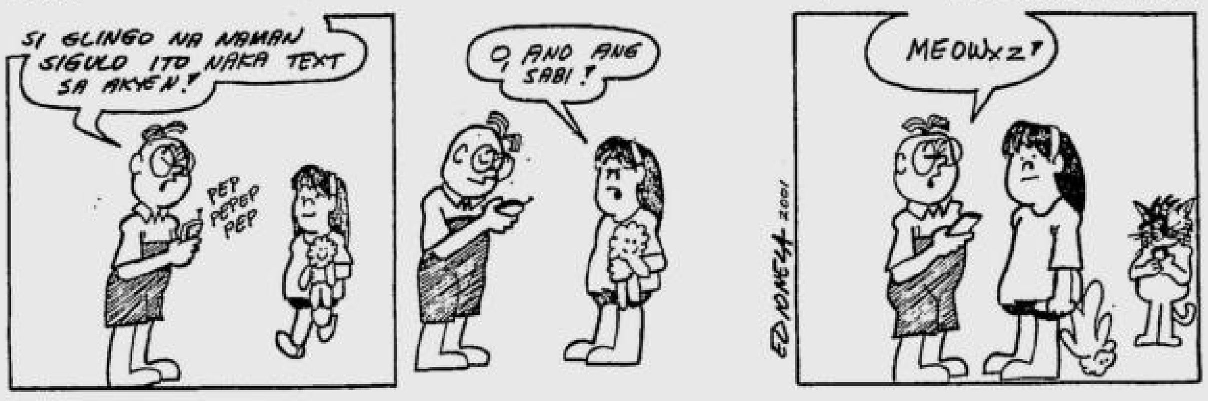
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT "GLORIA LABANDERA" ANG KINAKANTA NG MGA NAGPRO-PROTESTA?
E BAKIT NAMAN HINDI?
E KASI, "LUMUSONG S'YA ♪ SA TUBIG ANG PAA AY NABASA ..." ♫
'DI BA?
SO?
ALALAHANIN MONG MALIIT SI GLORIA.
PAG LUMUSONG S'YA SA TUBIG E KILAY KAAGAD ANG MABABASA ...
NAGSALITA ANG MATANGKAD.

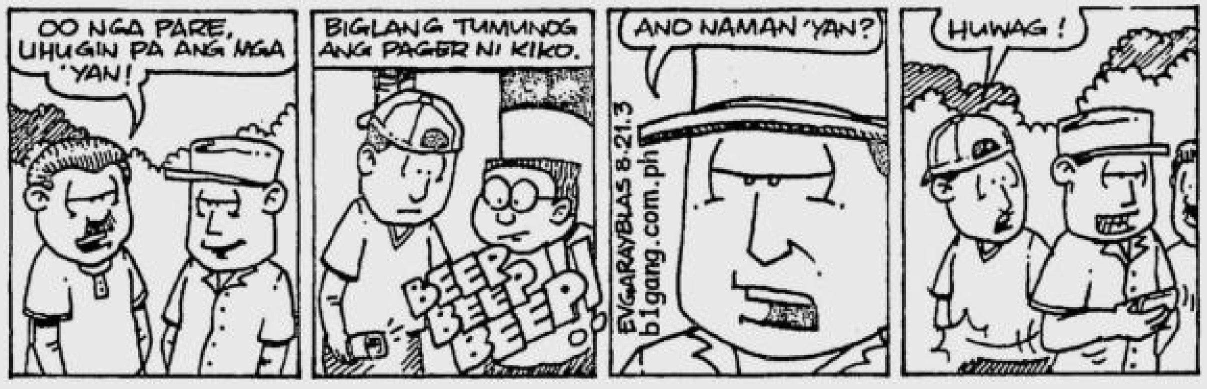
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SI GLINGO NA NAMAN SIGULO ITO NAKA TEXT SA AKYEN!
PEP PEPEP PEP
O, ANO ANG SABI?
MEOWxz!
EDIONELA 2001

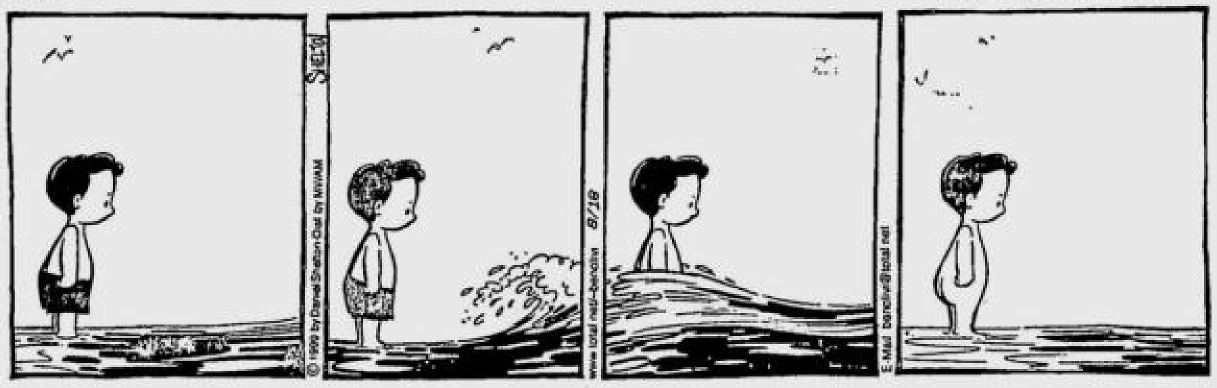
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


OO NGA PARE, UHUGIN PA ANG NGA 'YAN!
BIGLANG TUMUNOG ANG PAGER NI KIKO.
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
ANO NAMAN 'YAN?
HUWAG!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.21.3
b1gang.com.ph

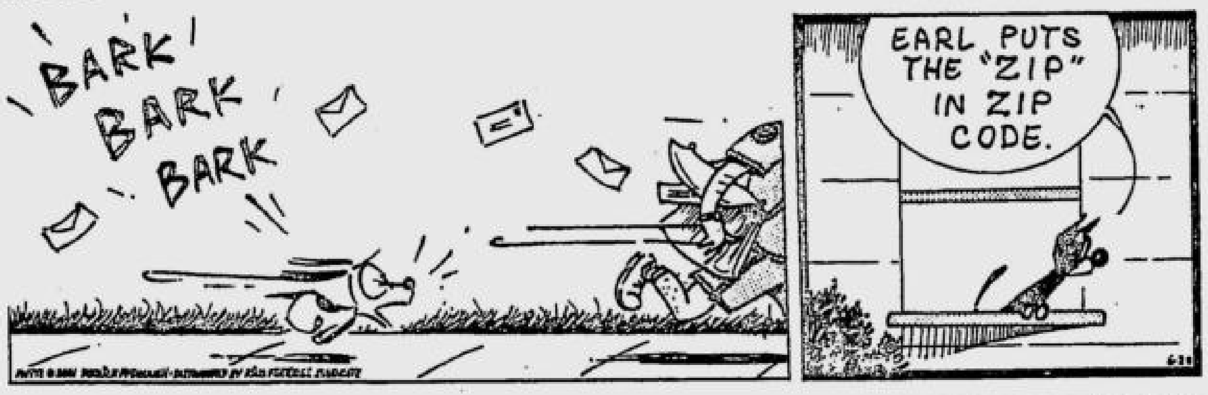
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



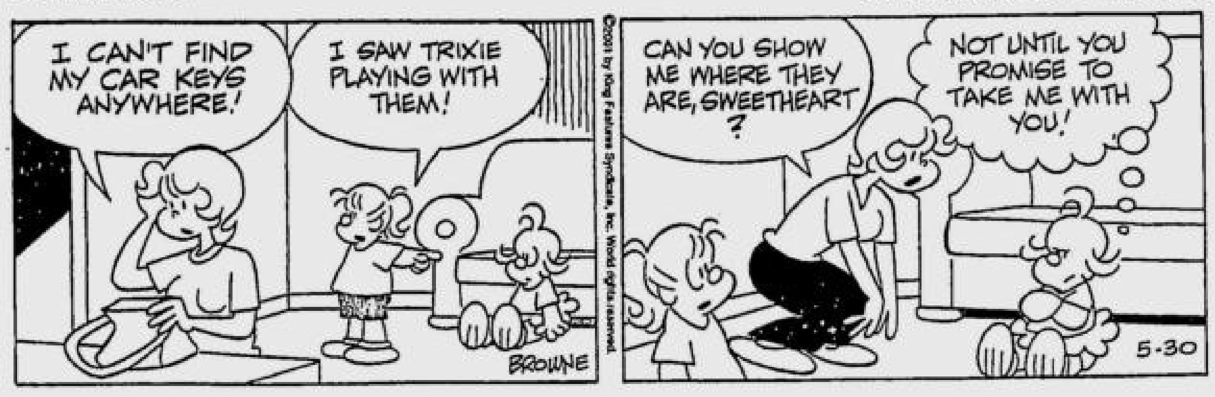
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BARK BARK BARK
EARL PUTS THE "ZIP" IN ZIP CODE.

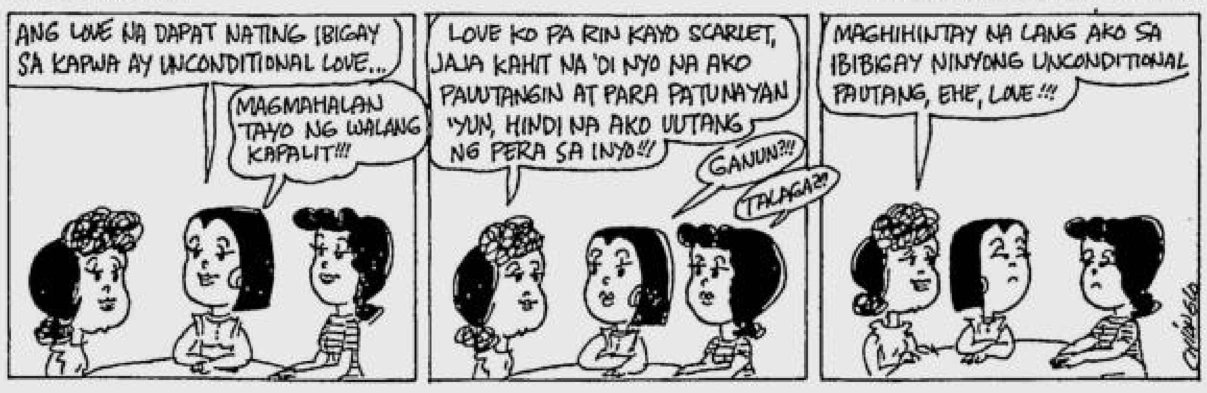
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I CAN'T FIND MY CAR KEYS ANYWHERE!
I SAW TRIXIE PLAYING WITH THEM!
CAN YOU SHOW ME WHERE THEY ARE, SWEETHEART?
NOT UNTIL YOU PROMISE TO TAKE ME WITH YOU!
BROWNE
5-30

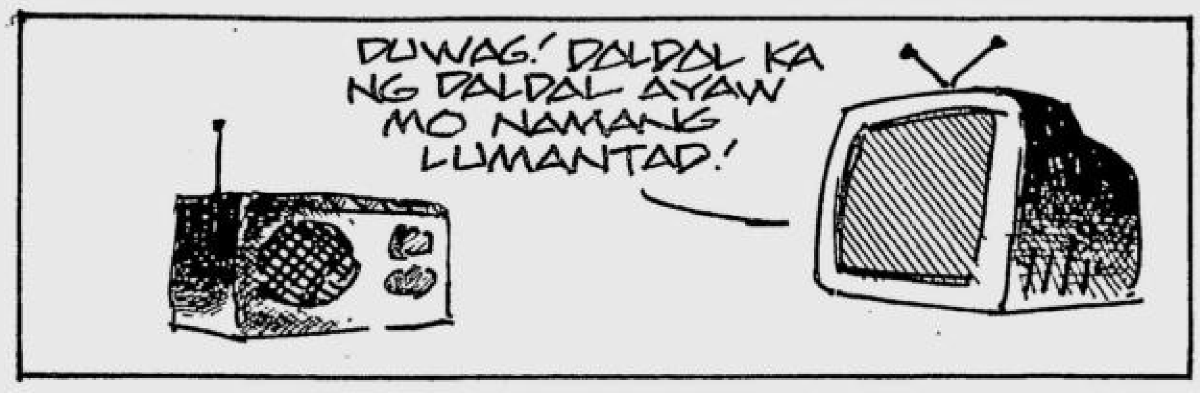
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG LOVE NA DAPAT NATING IBIGAY SA KAPWA AY UNCONDITIONAL LOVE...
MAGMAHALAN TAYO NG WALANG KAPALIT!!!
LOVE KO PA RIN KAYO SCARLET, JAJA KAHIT NA 'DI NYO NA AKO PAUUTANGIN AT PARA PATUNAYAN 'YUN, HINDI NA AKO UUTANG NG PERA SA INYO!!!
GANUN?!!
TALAGA?!
MAGHIHINTAY NA LANG AKO SA IBIBIGAY NINYONG UNCONDITIONAL PAUTANG, EHE, LOVE!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


DUWAG! DALDAL KA NG DALDAL AYAW MO NAMANG LUMANTAD!

Meet the real KC Concepcion

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you! • 2bU

(From page D1)

out sometimes, I tend to stay away from people.

How much influence does your mom have on your sense of style?

She's never really been revealing. She doesn't like a lot of cleavage. Not really sexy. In that sense, I've learned to kind of avoid the whole I-want-to-show-a-lot-of-skin thing. Once in a while I'd want to, but it's not really part of my life.

Do you have a beauty regimen?

It's not something I prioritize. As long as I feel clean, as long as I don't smell, I will step out of the door and I'm fine. I just wash my face every night and day. I take showers. (Laughs) The beauty thing is not really part of the conversation.

What can't you leave home without?

Lip balm. I have to have lip balm because my lips are really dry and I feel so dirty when... It always has to be moisturized.

What is your ideal boyfriend like?

Intelligent and responsible. I should be able to feel we'd be able to work anything out the right way. And I like to learn from everyone so he'd have to be someone smart, not brain-dead. Someone who knows how to have fun and has a passion for life, respects others' thoughts. Got to be real.

Do you have a boyfriend?

Whether I do or not, it's not something I really would want to talk about.

Are you romantic?

Ask my future boyfriend.

Do you have a pet?

Had a black-cap parrot from Indonesia called Kulay and a couple of fighting fish called Chaos and Jorda. They died. Our dog Solomon is still around, though. He's a shih tzu.

What's your idea of fun?

Fun can be anything, but some people have a totally distorted sense of fun. [To me, it's] doing things you've never done before, and the people you do them with. It's all about the rush, or the experiences you never forget that makes the best times—as long as no one's hurt, or forced to do something silly.

What's your favorite foreign city?

Bangkok!

What time do you go to bed?

Usually, I can't fall asleep until about midnight.

What words/expressions do you most use?

"That's pretty funny." "So weird." "That's so bad!" "Ayayayayay!" "You sure?" Clicking noises—I make a lot of gestures and get pretty animated when I talk.

What/who makes you laugh? Why?

Tom Green! People like him you just can't take seriously. It's interesting when you see somebody making a fool of himself to be funny but doesn't realize it.

You've never gone this public before, though you've hosted a "Sharon" episode. How do you think you'll deal with the aftermath of going public?

I try to keep my feet on the ground and try to ignore the fuss, although it's not completely ignorable. I just try to stick to what's real in my life, what's not show biz. There are things that are really important to me, like my family, friends, true friends, real people, real situations.

New fragrance captures youthful zest for life

DO you dream in color? Do you love to laugh? Do you enjoy looking pretty and feminine? Do you like to challenge yourself in daring-dos? Do you fall in love at least once a month? Do you consider yourself a go-getter? If you answered yes to at least one of the questions—Ralph, the new colorful fragrance by Ralph Lauren, may be just the fragrance you're looking for.

Ralph Lauren created fragrance for the GenY generation, girls aged between 15-25 years old. Greater in number than the GenX group, this generation is profiled as optimistic, energetic and still believing in traditional values like loyalty in friendship and the femininity of women. Sixty million strong now, this generation is expected to grow by 11 percent in 2005.

Using the eye candy appeal of a rainbow hue of fruity colors, the happy colors of green, orange, pink, lavender and aqua along with its simple and clean water-bottle shaped containers, epitomize a youthful zest for life. The delicious blend of green apple tree leaves, Italian mandarin, magnolia, purple freesia and white woods musk ensures another winning scent to add to Ralph Lauren's already heady fragrance collection.

So go ahead and take a whiff of Ralph, its light refreshing fragrance will no doubt remind you of a sunny windswept beach on a lazy summer weekend. Which in the midst of midterm's stress and nasty weather will guarantee to make you smile—or better yet, laugh out loud. Moreover, its friendly bath products like its bright green exfoliating gel called Scrubadub is a surefire remedy cure for your most angst-filled day.

Recently launched in the Philippines at the hip Rockwell Mall with a fun and colorful fragrance fair, everyone was treated to an unusual fashion presentation where Manila's top 10 models depicted various personalities of the Ralph Girl. Also there were colorful booths which offered free nail art, body painting, tarot card reading, fashion consultation from Teen Philippines, chill out tunes from Tower Records DJ Adrian Monsod, Ralph gifts and movie premiere tickets given by Globe for all those who downloaded Ralph daisy logo, color horoscopes, free juice, dream analysis and Ralph snap bracelets. Those who missed the July event at Rockwell are all invited to experience the Ralph Fair at SM Megamall this August. Watch out for the announcement in the papers soon.

MAY is crowned the Ralph Girl by Leica, Rhea and Celine of L'Oréal Phils.

RALPH girl loves to laugh.

Mag talks about dynamic ideas

FLY is in flight again, spreading its wings, leaving its indelible mark on its readers once more.

Everybody needs a break.

With energy and vigor pumping up its vein, the magazine known to many as the voice of the unheard is again reverberating in the places it should be.

The kid has grown up. The senseless ramblings have ceased and now it talks more sense. But the rawness is still there, the edginess still apparent. But the corners are more tapered, the words are subtler, but not necessarily kinder. Fly will still pound on minds and will still linger in the senses. Fly still talks about everything and nothing of the relevant and the mundane.

Three young men have now joined the Fly ranks, bringing with them rawness and angst, ideas and dynamism. Up and coming, these three individuals speak the mind of the youth. They make tomorrow happen today. Their differences make them one heck of a team. Pao Orendain, a maverick photographer, now makes waves as he continues to snap at the shutter and manage his own graphics studio, Cartel Designs. Mico del Rosario, young and fresh out of college, is a whiz with his pen as he continues to write for a PR agency, RPA & Communicate Inc., and brings out the best in his students at DLSU-CSB. Last but not the least, there's Dong Magsajo who, in his young age, is fast gaining reputation as an ace columnist in one of the major dailies in the Philippines.

"What's next." This is the byline of the new Fly Magazine as it features objects, ideas and personalities which Fly deems to be the next thing. Watch out for the latest issue of Fly magazine as it deals with a kaleidoscope of topics. Who is Anna Castro? How do you make your own love potion? What is existentialism? Read all of that and more on the latest issue of Fly Magazine. Want to know what's next? Get it from the coolest bars, cafés, music stores, the hippest salons and fitness centers.

Of course, Fly is for free, just the way an expression should be.

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- SM BACOOR (046) 502-3568 (046) 571-1536 Lower Ground Floor, SM Bacoor
- DAVAO CITY (082) 226-2305 (082) 224-0361 Circumferential Rd., Marfori Heights
- PAMPANGA (045) 961-1876 (045) 961-1887 Queensland Comml. Plaza, Maligaya Vill., Dolores
- SM FAIRVIEW 419-7549 419-7552 Lower Ground Floor, SM City
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- SM SOUTHMALL Unit 10 Lower G/F SM Southmall, Las Piñas City SOON TO OPEN

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BOHEMIAN hodgepodge chic in the streets of London

FEATHERED FUN. Frolicking at Fabric

TRASHY traipsing around

VINTAGE club phile on the loose

THE VAGINA dialogue

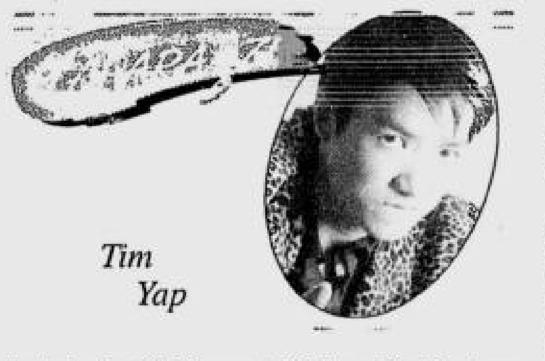
PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

RYOJI, stylist to YSL at Momo's

MUSIC makes the people go to Covent Garden

PUNKS with a happy attitude

London clubs calling



Tim Yap

THINK of London and immediately images of Brit Pop dominate—from punk rock icons to dance club legends, aside from the Queen (yawn, yawn) and Big 'Ol Ben, to the now generation's **Robbie Williams** and "Bridget Jones." Besides that, Blighty's current offering of bars, lounges and clubs are just more than enough to make you go "spinning around."

Dear old Manila forever looks to London for music and nightlife inspiration—so no matter how far behind we think we are, we actually try our best (local DJs have good London links) to be up to par in music and vibe. London streets breathe so much music and fashion, from Covent Garden street musicians to Camden market punks. They just have this fearless frivolity that spells F-U-N!

Here the scene may be in a bit of transition, but over there, the blokes party day and night, from pubs and bars to the uppity member's bars. Their scene is just so broad, that they have to employ membership rates and other "exclusivity clauses," with money, beauty and celebrity talking louder than plain 'ol attitude.

Having attended countless events here and else where, from Chivas Regal's Café del Mar event at Mas Y Mas to their unforgettable Malate strip parties, I can say that we fare very well in all counts, as compared to our British compatriots.

Inspired by Chivas' "When You Know... Music" London promotion (which gives us partyphiles the chance to fly to any of five music capitals—Vienna, Ibiza, New Orleans, Jamaica and London—just drink Chivas and you'll know—you get the drift.), I scoured my last summer's London trip-hopping to give you urbanites a list of must-see spots and must dos and don'ts. Hey, you never know, you might just get there.

HOME DJ on a roll

THIS is what happens when you don't know

Member's bars

To offer the London elite more privacy to be able to sit down and have a decent tête-à-tête, at the same time see and be seen, London's member's bars cater to the fame game. Private clubs are no longer the preserves of old timers, politicians and gentlemen, as the new wave of media-friendly clubs have become the hangout of the new ruling class—the celebrities.

The Ten Room (10 Air St.) and 10 Tokyo Joe's (85 Picadilly) are both owned by **Terry Pullen**, who established these chill spots after he sleepwalked off his seventh floor balcony (he had broken bones, but is obviously still alive now). Media and fashion types hang out in this funky martini hotspot full of drop-dead glam girls. Members have to shell out 25 pounds a pop or 300 pounds for an annual membership. Non-members can get in, only before 10 p.m., and at the discretion of the doormen at that.

23 Romilly St. and 57 Jermyn St., both names and addresses of private clubs, are '90s' versions of a New York basement club. Velvet maroon banquettes around glossy red tables dominate these two martini lounges. London Fashion Week parties are held here, aside from China White and the Met Bar, among other hotspots where you cannot tell the models from the waitresses.

Madonna had her birthday party at Momo's (25 Heddon St.) where the guest book reads like a Vanity Fair cover. Wear your fashionista best and lounge on its velvet seats. Don't forget to tug along your member-friend, because no amount of beauty, begging or blagging will get you in. The Groucho Club (45 Dean St.) ruled London during the mid-'80s (just like Euphoria here) and pioneered the launch of a hundred other member's bars.

Dance clubs

Heaven, Gatecrasher (though London is not its base), and Home DJs have played here to sell-out raves. Techno-crazy partyphiles crave for more.

Red, white and blue dominate Bar Rumba (36 Shaftesbury Ave.), which is DJ Goldie's favorite London haunt. A "Strictly no jeans and trainers" rule is applied on weekends; girls wear next to nothing at this central London club. At The End (18 West Central), a former post office building is now frequented by **Puff Daddy** and **Leo Di Caprio**. Sundays nights are Prada nights (**Anton San Diego** would love this) at this West End hotspot.

A young, sexy crowd hang out at Fabric (77A Charterhouse St.), a converted Victorian cold storage building with three large rooms and huge internal windows and no outside light. Their Saturday night "Know Their Music" is extremely popular, and their weekend gay night, "Addiction to DTPM," is the hottest Sunday night in London.

Home (1 Leicester Square) is a massive space of six floors and a restaurant in the middle of touristy Leicester. Paul Oakenfold used to have residency here every Saturday, with "hi-pro" people like **Kate Moss, Macy Gray, Bjork**, etc. in regular attendance. Kabaret (5 Upper John St.) is an extremely dark dance club, fit for the conscious types, though it often gives off that private party kind of feel.

The legend that is Ministry of Sound (103 Gaunt St.) is a clubber's paradise renowned for its incredible music and great DJs. Designed by the same people behind the Met Bar, it is a great clubbing experience, despite being quite touristy. (Well, we are all tourists, anyway.)

The Rock (Hungerford House, Embankment) is an old, converted WW2 prison (think Mas Y Mas) that now feels like a '70s' lounge due to its white leather seats, lanterns on stone walls and glass windows. Attractions include trapeze artists and big, stylish parties with London's hip and happening.

Beyond the Velvet Ropes

With all of London bars' and clubs' stiff door policies, how does one get in? Well, here are a few tips given to us by Ministry of Sound's **Danielle Windsor**. First, act with confidence, as if you belong inside. But not too much confidence—arrogance will just irk the door staff.

Next, get on the VIP list. One call during the day with the right name, and you are in. Dress well, not necessarily smart, but make an effort. Know somebody famous, or better still, be somebody famous.

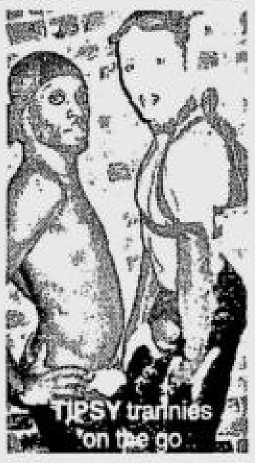
But the best tip is, "Stay happy—everyone else is here to have fun."

When all else fails, turn up at the door with a record case and say that your DJ set begins in five minutes, or visit the club as a potential promoter, and hide in the toilet until the club opens. You can also claim to be from Japanese media and are only in town for the night. Or disguise yourself as a health and safety officer or a policeman, or make yourself an all access pass with the club's logo on it.

See, now you know.

WHITE is the new black.

LESS is more



TIPSY trannies on the go

Do boys really expec[illegible] f[illegible] he perfect woman?

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

FOR A CHANGE, let's have a discussion in this "Chatroom" of yours. My problem is not a real problem. I suppose it's one of those generally accepted things. The problem (more for other people than myself, I guess) is that I don't want to just accept. I want to know (your opinion on) WHY? (We Filipinos rarely ask that question. I wonder why? But that's for another letter, I guess.)

My problem is a gender-disparity issue of sorts. So I shall ask each of you a question:

Carlos: Why can't guys get over their abstract notions of the Perfect Woman? They all (they must!) know that their fantasies are merely magnifications of the good parts, flaws powdered-up, and are not likely to turn into reality. Why do they keep f——ing things up because of these stupid, impossible hopes?

S(T)UPERGIRL

Everyone begins life as an infant. And when a child's cognitive stage is in full swing and a mother's voice is no longer enough to keep his interest, a child is swept away by great moments of discovery, ooh-ing and ahh-ing at every shape and color. As the child grows up, he needs more to keep him amused. "Close, open, close, open" has limited amusement value. Same with Nintendo. I used to think the Sega 16-Bit was The Ultimate until 64-Bit came along. Imagination and dreams let us get into the other reality, maybe even the real reality.

In the same way, movies bring the viewer into another world, another dimension. The more convincing the portrayal, the more engrossing the detail, the more we cease to be just viewers in theater seats as we leave the troubles of our world out in the streets. We become witnesses—and participants. And, often, even our own identities can disappear altogether, at least briefly.

Movie magic awes and amazes; long extinct dinosaurs almost come to life. It takes erotic legend Pablo Neruda and makes him a man, who lives in a house like most of us. He is a teacher of metaphors to a postman in a poignant romantic comedy. For a while we believe that there exists people, things, places, concepts, ideas that we cannot fully define due to our limited experience and sense. Everything you see in the movies is 100 percent Real and True. Even bad movies.

So what if little hobbits were only "put" on Middle Earth by a genius who could see elves making merry in a palace in the trees? So what if I won't live to own a lightsaber? If I believed that I could walk through walls, perform miracles and read minds, and every day, I would say, 'Today is The Day,' who would dare say that it was a "stupid, impossible hope," except maybe someone who was afraid to see me succeed? Imagination is not simply a portal, it is where we should want to be.

As to the perfect girl, whether she's in my hemisphere or not, dead for a century or born after my time, it doesn't matter. I do my best to be a nice guy, but I am not afraid to confront wrongs and insipidness. I will not protect myself from heartbreak and solitude, for even a failed relationship has beauty and countless joys.

Welcome to the Chatroom, S(t)upergirl.

CARLOS

S(t)upergirl continues:

September: I'm an all-around great girl. I'm smart, kind (most of the time), and I get my fair share of second glances from decent guys. But great as I am, I have to admit I am, of course, not perfect. I have been constantly pushed into an arena where I am expected to compete with an invisible, abstract idea. And (because I know it's futile) I refuse to compete. But it seems that the futility is lost on the boys I've gone out with. Was I being stupid to let go because I refused to accept what was generally accepted? In other words, what I am asking you is whether or not you believe that boys will be boys even when they (sometimes) look and sound like men?

S(T)UPERGIRL

As painful as it is for me to admit, yes, I believe some boys will always be boys. Unluckily for us, they outnumber the men. In our choir, for example, of the five males, only one is a man.

But look at the bright side—in the dismal situation we girls are in, it is necessary to look for the bright side—you will be able to tell if you have found yourself a man after knowing those infantile boys. You will be able separate the grain from the chaff. You can congratulate yourself for a job well-done.

Meanwhile, we have to put up with boys. But boys aren't all bad. They can actually be quite fun to play with, like dogs. Just don't take them too seriously or else you'll be courting trouble.

Here's to an all-around great girl, from another all-around great girl (self-love compels me to say that): have fun with the males. That's what they're here for.

SEP

Young stewards live their dreams

DO you recognize the student leaders in your college or university? They lead the school's top organizations, get voted into the student council and still make it to the dean's list. We admire them, we emulate them, we want to *be* them. But what happens to them after graduation? Do they continue to be trailblazers in their chosen professions?

Every year, the Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) gathers 70 of the most outstanding student leaders from all over the country for a three-day conference. The goal is to assist them in formulating a vision of society and then help them form bonds with one another. This is so that when they eventually take positions of leadership—and they are bound to do so, point out many studies—they can help each other remain faithful to that vision.

Some of these student leaders have since graduated and pursued their own careers. AYLC kept track of their progress and discovered that student personalities remain leaders long after they graduate.

Twenty-three-year-old Catherine Pabalan graduated with honors from De La Salle University. With a degree in International Studies and academic awards to boot, she could have easily pursued an exciting career in diplomacy. Instead, she has taken on the task of building bridges between the civil societies of Western Europe and East Asia through the Asia-Europe Foundation in Singapore. Nevertheless, she remains true to a vision she shares with other AYLC alumni: to see a better Philippines. This she pursues through Bukas Sarili, a foundation that responds to pressing socio-economic concerns such as health and education. As project head, Cathy organizes and implements fundraisers for the benefit of indigent patients, a scholarship program for deserving students, and a community library project.

Doctor for the masses

Margarita Castro, AYLC 1999, is also concerned with improving the state of public health service in the country. A second-year medical student at UP-PGH, she led Lingkod e.r, an assistance program for poor emergency patients. As the public relations officer of her class, she is now raising money for a foundation that will sponsor medical education and services.

Marga says she plans to take her residency in pediatrics or neurology in the United States. But she intends to fulfill her calling as a doctor for the masses in her country. "*Kasi* as a UP student, we are always told that the people are paying for our education. *May utang na loob kami* to serve our countrymen."

ROSELLE Ambubuyog

While most law students aspire to work for the top law firms in the country, Aliakhbar Jumrani, 22, is still chasing his ideal: to provide legal services to those in need.

This was an ideal he set for himself two years ago as a participant in the AYLC. "I realized that this country needs people who can lead others, who can take care of those who can't take care of themselves, and who can fight for truth and justice," Al explained. The third year law student of Silliman University has come a long way from his hometown to achieve that dream.

"When my family moved to Zamboanga, we barely knew anyone. It motivated me to excel in my studies and get involved in my school and community." Al went on to graduate magna cum laude in political science and received many awards as an orator and writer. His academic achievements and involvement in community organizations earned him the distinction of the TOSP in 1999.

MARGA Castro

It was Roselle Ambubuyog's disability that made her one of the most recognizable student personalities today. She recently landed in the front pages of newspapers after being awarded one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP), one of many citations she has received over the years. Blind since the age of 6, Roselle wowed the country for graduating at the top of her class at the Ateneo de Manila University. Now, the mathematics summa cum laude is taking a master's degree in actuarial science at UP Diliman.

Roselle first traveled on her own last year as a participant of the AYLC. Her parents were anxious knowing that she would need more assistance than the sighted participants. But their fears were short-lived. Roselle quickly gained her ground among the participants and eagerly participated in all the discussions and outdoor events. She even joined a rappelling exercise, which required her and a partner to scale a 30-foot wall Resource Center.

Amazingly, there is more to Roselle's life than academics. She is working closely with Ateneo to set up a resource center for blind students. "I want to disprove other people's misconceptions about disabled people. I'd like to initiate or promote projects for them, especially blind children."

Vanessa Ann Remoquillo, AYLC 2000, shares Roselle's vision for the youth. "Being part of the Ayala Young Leaders Congress changed my views on leadership and service, and affirmed my belief in the youth of our country," says Vanessa, who is nicknamed Essa. The magna cum laude communication arts graduate of Ateneo de Davao University is living out her vision to empower the youth. As a member of the web content development team of the International Youth Foundation's Youth Action Network, 20-year-old Essa is helping provide learning resources and tools for young people across the globe "so they can be better equipped to create change in their own communities and societies." Not a bad start for the national winner of Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Writing Competition last year and a recipient of the TOSP in 2001.

When the AYLC begins accepting applications for next year's conference, a new batch of student leaders will again be gathered from all over the country in hopes that they will share a commitment to integrity and national development. Who will be the next stewards of our country? You may be one of them.

Call the AYLC Secretariat at 841-5364 or visit www.youth.ayala.com.ph.

The man behind the submarine

(From page D6)

you expect a lot from it. I didn't have enough guts then. I was pretty afraid because that would determine if I could make it in this profession.

How long does it take for you to write a story? What's the writing process like?

A complete film? Well, a TV program takes about three months. A 30-minute story usually takes three months to write.

Do you have any writing rituals or habits?

I don't really have certain habits like other writers and animators. Before I sleep, I just think about what story I want to write. Sometimes I just tinker around with the computer and I just imagine things and come up with stories. They just sort of come to me.

How do you come up with each character? Where do their personalities come from?

It depends on the character. For example, if I'm writing about a child, I try to imagine what it feels like to be young, what it feels like to be that child. I put myself in the character's shoes. If the character has to be happy, then I'd make myself happy so I can relate to that person. I have to feel what the character is feeling or else it wouldn't work. So, basically, it's my feelings out there.

Isn't that weird that you are in some way exposing yourself to everyone?

What I really want is to share my feelings with others. I want others to see how I think and what I feel. Even as a kid, that's what I wanted people to see. I just feared that people wouldn't accept it. It still dazzles me today that there are some people who appreciate my honesty.

Animé characters always look the same. What sets your characters apart from the others?

Animators like me look to the classics, the characters that were in past movies and shows. Of course, we tend to follow those before us so we end up drawing the same thing. Our interests since we were kids were influenced by them. Animé artists are somehow connected in such manner. Sometimes it's the audience who can tell the characters apart, precisely because they feel what the animators are trying to relay. Okay, now I'm going to have to think of a way to make my characters different (*laughs*).

On the series "Blue Submarine No. 6," you combined CG and animé. Is this a trend in Japan?

First of all, it was really experimental. I was risking a lot since it wasn't a big thing in Japan. Other Disney films use it, but you hardly see them in animé. As for its being a trend, it's a case by case thing (*laughs*). Some have picked up on it. But it's not a widely accepted thing in Japan right now. Not too many people are into it. It's not very traditional, but I saw that it could be done, and hand-drawings work well with computer graphics. It also depends on the mood of the film if it can be done with computer graphics. It actually helped the storyline.

So this CG and animé is one big experiment. Do you often experiment on such things?

It really depends. With "Blue Submarine," I was just inspired by that '60s mangga. Once I get the idea, my imagination just works and I come up with something. Also it depends on the sponsors, because some projects that involve risks cost a lot (*laughs*). It's hard to experiment because it's not just the money that is needed but also the labor and people who will support you.

You're a director, animator and you also invent video games. If you could pick just one, what would you be?

Oh no...just one? That's hard. I love drawing. That's the best. (*frowns*) But okay, animation director. I can cheat with that one...I get to draw and at the same time direct. You get to dabble in every department that way. So I'd be an animation director. Because then I get to check the drawings and add little things to it, so at the same time I'm drawing. (*laughs*)

Animé is beginning to be popular in the US, thanks to "Pokémon." Would you be interested in making a show in the US?

I've thought about it. I've got a project in my head right now... (*smiles*)

What's it about?

Oh, it's a secret. (*laughs*) We're working on it right now, actually.

Who would you want to work with?

Ralph Bakshi. He directed the film "Cool World." It's American pop culture. He's a guy I dream of working with. But then whoever's willing to work with me, I'd work with them! I'd work with anyone who's interested in the project. I'm not really picky. Also the musician George Clinton...I wouldn't turn him down. (*smiles*)

Is there any story you're writing right now?

I'm working on two right now. One project might air in Japan soon, another one might come out next year. Right now I'm very, very busy. But I'm always thinking of possible stories.

Do you have any advice to those who want to get into animé?

Start with the basics. When I was a kid I'd draw absolutely anything... forks, spoons, my family. Simple things. You develop your imagination with those things. Sketch anything. You have to love what you do, not just think of it as a "side" thing.

With reports from Mica V. Siquijor

Pinoy Philips X-ragers to compete in Indonesia

High-flying skateboarding action at Philips X-Rage.

Nine of the best BMX riders, inliners and skateboarders in the country are set to fly to Jakarta, Indonesia for the regional finals of Philips X-Rage, an extreme games festival organized by Philips Consumer Eletctronics, one of the world's leading consumer electronics companies. These lucky X-gamers were selected from hundreds of Pinoy extreme sports enthusiasts after rigorous competitions during the Manila leg of Philips X-Rage held recently at The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City.

The top placers for the three categories are: Carlo Gaya (1st place, Inline Skating Beginners), Benjie Estanislao (1st place, Inline Skating Advanced), Rowell Yangco (2nd place, Inline Skating Advanced), John Sulit (1st place, Skateboarding Beginners) Ansey Flores (1st place, Skateboarding Advanced), Pedro Santos (2nd place, Skateboarding Advanced), Reynaldo Cabides (1st place, BMX Beginners), Mark Schultz (1st place, BMX Advanced), and Jorge Baquir (2nd place, BMX Advanced).

Philips Consumer Electronics General Manager Tony Lim with pro-athletes from the USA and Philips X-Rage winners.

Aside from getting the chance to represent the country in Jndonesia, the winners also received various prizes from Philips as well as the event's other co-sponsors.

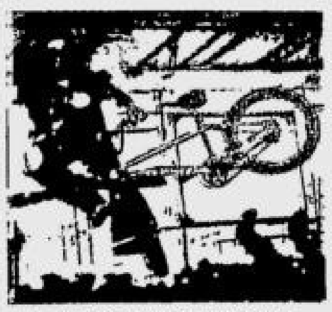
A three-day action-packed weekend, Philips X-Rage in Manila gave Filipino youths the opportunity to be part of an exciting X-games festival featuring competitions in BMX riding, skateboarding and in-line skating.

Top extreme sports athletes also flew to the country especially for the event. World pro-BMX riders Joshua and JD Heino, inliners Tyler Shields and Zacky "Webber" Murphy, and skateboarding greats Michael Peterson and Willy Santos, performed demos of amazing tricks and stunts that made them famous around the globe.

The Philips X-Rage competition gave Pinoy BMX enthusiasts, skateboarders and in-line skaters, in both Beginners and Advanced levels, the chance to show their skills and compete for prizes. Over a hundred X-gamers qualified for the semi-finals, and only 25 of them advanced to the final competition.

The lucky winners of Philips X-Rage Manila will also have a chance to get extensive training in their game of choice. If they win in Indonesia, these promising athletes will be sent to Woodward Camp, the ultimate destination for all extreme sports enthusiasts. Located in Central Pennsylvania, U.S.A., the camp is the largest extreme sports complex and serves as the training area for many top pros and Olympic medalists in the fields of freestyle biking, skateboarding, in-line skating and gymnastics.

Philips X-Rage was co-sponsored by Agfa, Milo, Pop Cola, Swatch, Toby's Sports and Hobbies, Tokyo Tokyo, Vans, Red Bull, NU 107, RX 93.1, and The Fort Summer Camp.


A daring X-Rager flips his BMX.

Congratulations, winners!

PHILIPS
Xrage Xtreme Shots
Photo Contest

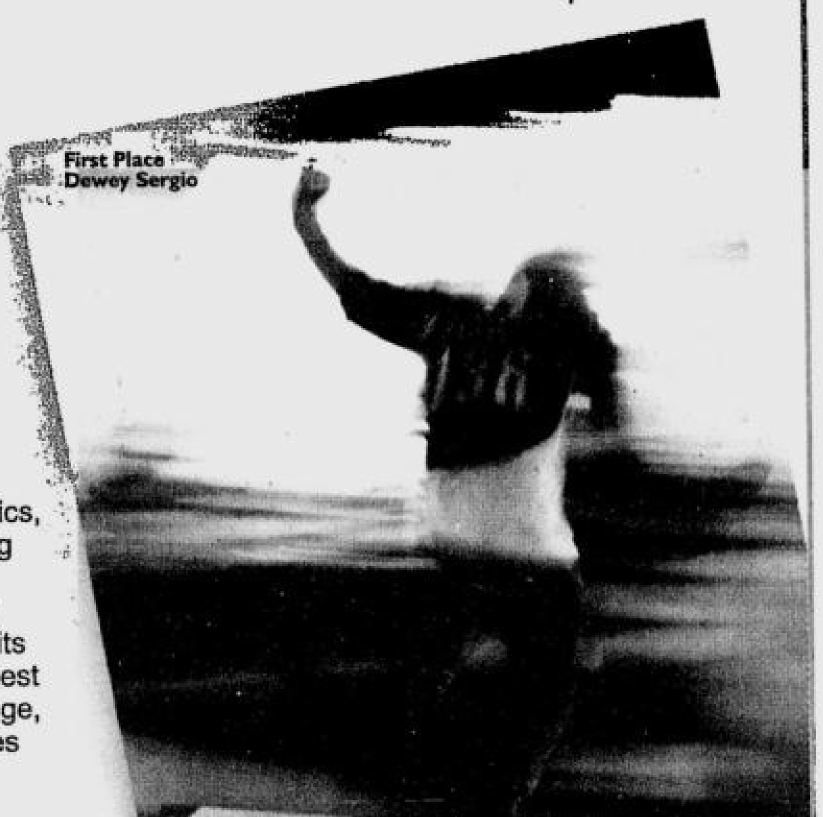
Published Category

Unpublished Category

First Place
Revoli S. Cortez
Philippine Star

Second Place
Ramon M. Esguerra
Kabayan

Third Place
Ernesto Mendoza
Philippine Star



Second Place
JPeter Obligacion

Third Place
Luis A. Naguit

Philips Consumer Electronics, one of the world's leading consumer electronics companies, is proud to announce the winners in its X-treme Shots Photo Contest held as part of Philips X-rage, the most exciting x-games festival to hit Manila!

The winners whose entries capture the exhilirating action at the games as well as the winning spirit of young Pinoy x-gamers, are:

Published Photos Category
Revoli Cortez
1st Place
Ramon Esguerra
2nd Place
Ernesto Mendoza
3rd Place

Unpublished Photos Category
Dewey Sergio
1st Place
JPeter Obligacion
2nd Place
Luis Naguit
3rd Place

Visit the
Philips X-rage
X-treme Shots Photo Exhibit
3rd level, Bridgeway,
SM Megamall
July 20 - August 1, 2001.

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

The man behind the submarine

By Maui V. Reyes

IT'S hard conversing with a foreigner. It doesn't help when the translator cannot even understand what to translate. An hour spent with director/animator Mahiro Maeda that consists of slow English pronunciations and numerous hand gestures and signals is an unusual experience, but it's worth the try because he's a talented director whose imagination runs through thousands of storylines and characters. And someone who is so passionate about animé.

"Japanese animation reflects reality. I feel that there are stories that mirror the anxieties within ourselves, and also those of this world," Maeda says.

An animé enthusiast since he was a kid, Maeda has created more than just a wussy "Pokémon"-like show. He's an animation director, a designer and an illustrator. He's worked on more than six animé videos, eight full-length movies, eight television series and three music videos. If that's not enough, he's designed three video games, one for the Sega Saturn ("Lunar Silver Star Story") and another for the PlayStation ("Gate Keepers"). And he's not even the big 3-0.

Maeda may have padded his videography, but right now he's giddy about his latest accomplishment, the four-part "Blue Submarine No. 6" (also known as "Aono Rokugo"), a story about courage and pride. "Right now it's the work I'm most proud of," he shares.

Written in the '60s by Saturo Ozawa, the story was re-written by Hiroshi Yamaguchi and directed by Maeda. Set in Japan, the story follows Maki Noriyuki, an 18-year-old submariner, and the rebellious Tetsu Hayami, a former No. 6 staff who joins Blue No. 6 to save the world from the evil Dr. Zorndyke and his mutated son. The world has been submerged in water (the series explains the whole polarity mumbo jumbo) and the true heroes lie in the deep.

In Manila for the AXN Final Fantasy animé festival, Maeda sits down with us for more than just hand gestures and senseless hand signals. Here he talks about writing, his future plans and exposing himself to the world.

What made you start doing animé?

Since I was little, I was always watching animé cartoons. I was always fascinated by them and that made me want to make animé. I think I was 5 or 7 when I started thinking about stories and imagining what the people would be like.

Did you always see yourself creating movies?

Movies, not necessarily. But I always wanted to be a director.

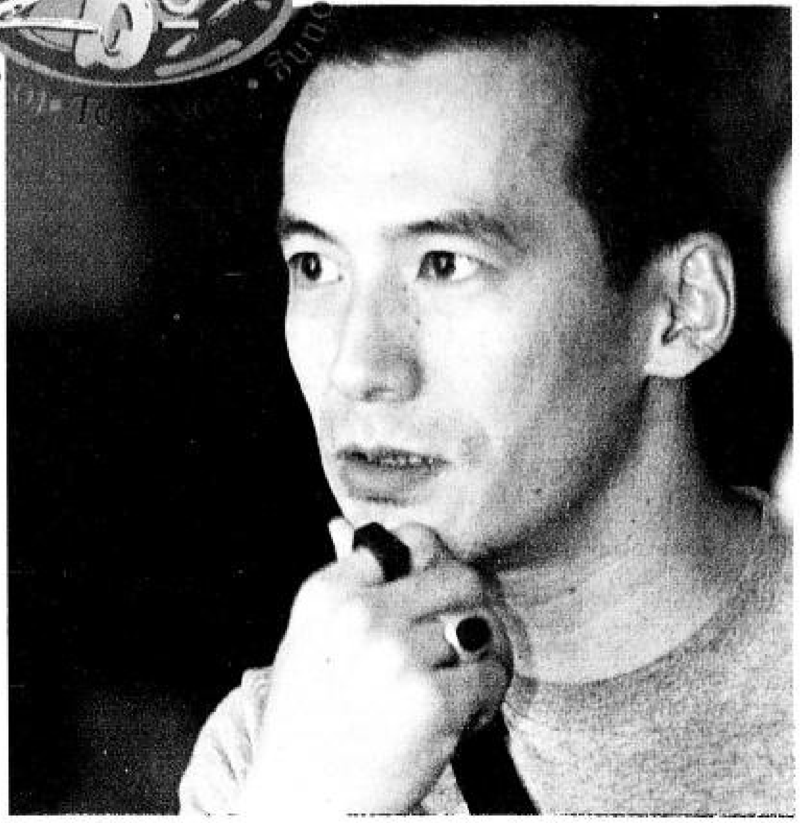
What makes animé so appealing?

Entertainment. It comes from the heart. It's about everyday life, the good and the bad side of life, about the dark elements as well as the happy ones. It's about feelings.

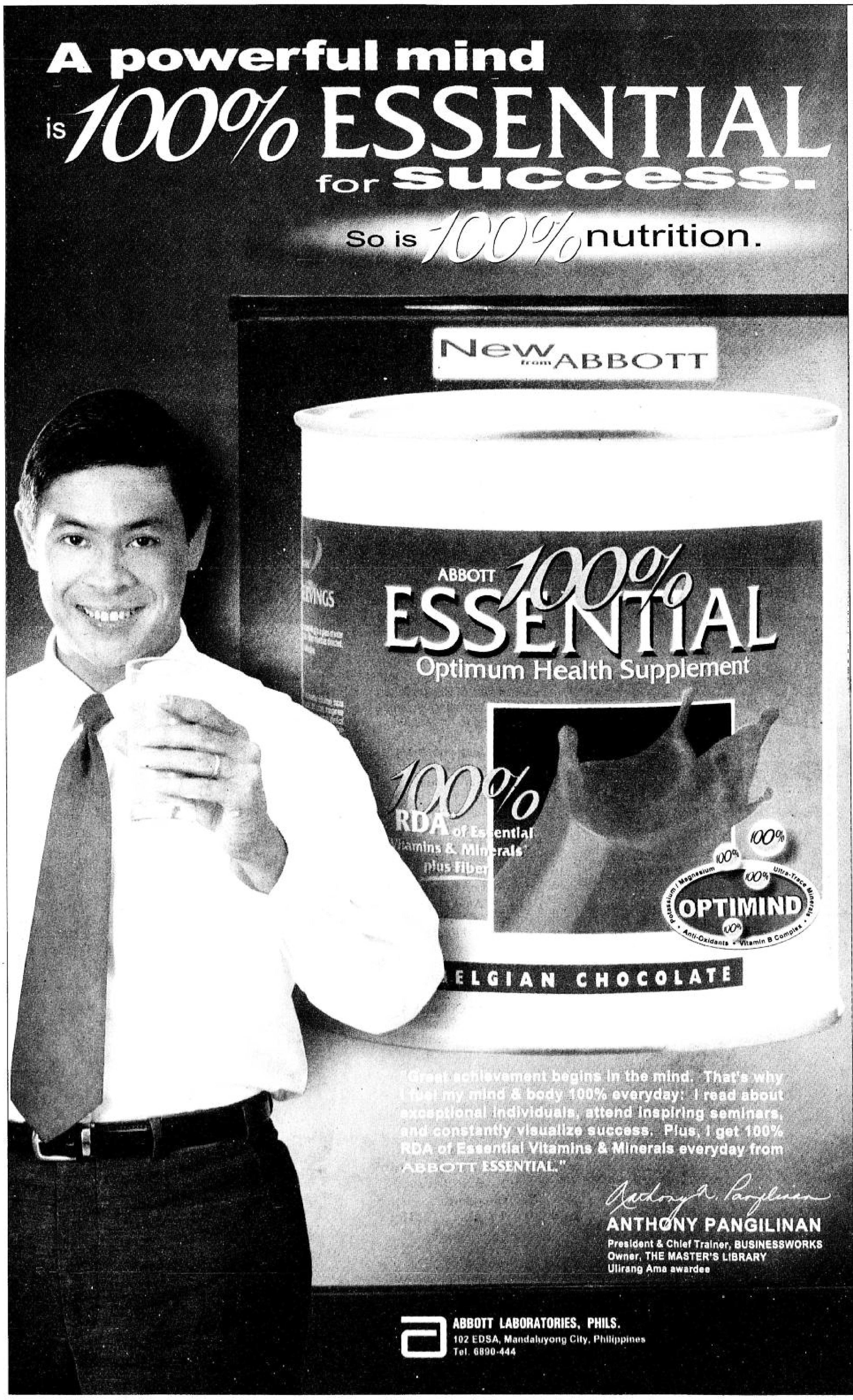
What was your first work like?

The first time I saw the result of my first project, I was very happy and it was a wonderful feeling, but at the same time I was embarrassed. I wasn't too secure with myself at that time and I was very concerned with what the critics thought of it. Of course, it's your first project so

THE MAN/ p. D5



MAHIRO Maeda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